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20P

THE

TIMES

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TUESDAY JUNE 13 1995

Thatcher fuels leadership doubts

Major meets Eurosceptics after attack

By Philip Webster, Nicholas Wood and George Brock

JOHN MAJOR was under increasing pressure to move his Government to the right last night after Baroness Thatcher told him to get back to Conservative policies on home ownership and taxation, while praising his shift on a European single currency.

The Prime Minister will hold a critical meeting with his party's Eurosceptics tonight after Tory rightwingers welcomed his predecessor's latest broadside as a reminder that the Conservatives have won four general elections on a centre-right platform.

In a rare face-to-face meeting with his strongest European opponents, Mr Major will face calls for a tougher anti-Berlin stance in preparation for next year's summit on the future of Europe and in key decisions on a single currency. The unspoken message will be that unless he moves further in their direction, the likelihood of a leadership challenge against him in the autumn will grow.

Mr Major instructed government and party officials to give a low-key response to Lady Thatcher's criticisms in interviews to promote the second volume of her memoirs. With relations with the Eurosceptic Right apparently improving, Mr Major saw no point in picking another quarrel with their former standard-bearer.

A senior Downing Street official said: "I am not going to comment on anything Lady Thatcher has said or written. Conservative officials said there was nothing new or surprising and declined to

comment. "It is important to remember she is trying to sell a book," was all one said.

In an interview yesterday with BBC Radio 4's *Today*, Lady Thatcher suggested that the Tories were trailing dismally in the polls because they had not been Conservative enough.

"It is quite clear why people are discontented because we have not done the things that we said we would do which they voted for. Policies to encourage home ownership and the family and to widen capital ownership must be strengthened. I am afraid that

Full interview... Page 8
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it is being undermined... these are true Conservative things and we must get back to Conservative policy," she said. She was bitterly critical of the Government's cuts in mortgage interest tax relief. "We are for home ownership, we are for reduced taxation and also three times mortgage relief has been cut on the people who trusted us when we said we want a capital-owning democracy, we want home ownership."

She said that she only went into the European exchange-rate mechanism "because I was finally the only person in the Cabinet resisting it and I knew John Major wanted it". Mr Major was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time.

She reiterated her opposition to a single currency.

adding: "I think there are people in Cabinet who share my view." She said, however, she was "delighted that the Prime Minister is getting more and more sceptical."

Lady Thatcher's intervention pleased leading right-wingers yesterday and reopened the debate on the direction of policy. Many party activists welcomed her remarks and backed her right to speak out but emphasised that the party should rally round Mr Major.

Iain Duncan-Smith, MP for Chingford, said that the Tories would do well to heed her advice. "She has reminded us that essentially we were elected by Conservative supporters who expected certain things of us and it is time to think carefully as to whether we are delivering or not," he said.

But loyalists were unhappy. David Mellor, the former National Heritage Secretary, said it was unhelpful and risked showing the Tories as "a house divided against itself".

One Cabinet minister said that if she had not been forced from office in 1990 she would have signed a version of the Maastricht treaty that would have been "indistinguishable" from that signed by her successor.

While the Right has welcomed Mr Major's remarks on a single currency its suspicions over how far he will go on Europe will be fuelled by the disclosure that he is writing the foreword to a pamphlet published later this month by the pro-Berlinists.

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Baroness Thatcher signs copies of the second volume of her memoirs yesterday

NUT reverses opposition to schools that have opted out

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

BRITAIN'S largest teaching union is preparing to drop its long-standing opposition to grant-maintained schools in a dramatic move that will assist Tony Blair's crusade to modernise Labour policy.

The National Union of Teachers is poised to reverse its own policy, which was reaffirmed at its April conference, that opted-out schools should be returned to local authority control.

The move, disclosed yesterday by Doug McAvoy, NUT general secretary, will be a huge boost to Labour which is also expected to support the retention of grant-maintained schools in a policy document later this month. Mr Blair is facing strong criticism from within his party over his new approach to grant-maintained schools and his decision to send his son Euan to one.

Mr McAvoy's move is partly designed to help relations between the NUT and the Labour Party, which have deteriorated as Mr Blair has tried to distance himself from the more militant trade unions. Mr McAvoy's decision, which will infuriate the Left, follows an internal survey of grant-maintained schools showing that most NUT teachers working there were prepared to keep the structure, provided they kept the extra funding these schools attract.

The survey of all 1,000 self-governing schools, to be published shortly, shows that most of the additional money has been spent on extra teachers and more equipment.

"When teachers were asked about whether they wanted to keep grant-maintained status, they said, 'We don't care what we are, as long as we keep the money,'" said Mr McAvoy. Admitting that the results would "shock" both NUT

members and the union's executive, he added: "It is not about the name... it is what they have been able to do because the funding is different."

Mr McAvoy, buoyed by last week's ballot when the NUT rejected a left-wing appeal for a one-day strike over class sizes, said the union would have to respond to the survey.

He intends to square the policy change with his members by suggesting a new system for funding education which would be more equitable to all schools. Under it, more money would be channelled from a national funding agency directly to all schools, with only a small reserve fund given to local authorities for

Free buses axed

Free transport for thousands of grammar school pupils was scrapped by a county council despite evidence that the change will save £1m less than expected. Page 2

special services. Mr McAvoy argued that that whoever won the next general election, they were unlikely to restore powers to local education authorities, who would remain marginalised. "Responsibility has reduced over the years and I don't think this will change with a Labour government."

Mr McAvoy said his moves would help David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary. "The findings of our survey will help him sustain his position, that you cannot easily get rid of GM [grant-maintained] schools and put them back into local authorities.... It is not just about losing votes in constituencies where there are grant-maintained schools."

The lady grants her fan club an audience

By Alan Hamilton

THE queue started outside on the pavement and wound all the way up the stairs to the fifth floor of Hatchard's, booksellers of Piccadilly by appointment to the Queen. The faces were expectant, reverent, beatific even, as though they were about to receive communion.

Baroness Thatcher emerged through a back door between shelves labelled "Narrative Travel - British Isles" and sat at a table with pen in

hand, as though awaiting Ronnie and Mikhail to sign a Salt treaty rather than copies of her new book. Sir Denis stood beaming loyally behind her as a frightful scrum of photography and filming broke out.

Between a Jean Muir navy two-piece worn in memory of its designer who died last week, and a hairstyle as fine and flawless as spun sugar, the baroness wore the broad smile of her publishers' most successful author since Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*. Nearly two million hardback copies of

The Downing Street Years sold worldwide, and a further 400,000 of the British paperback. Now for Part Two, *The Path To Power*, 2½ inches of shelf room for £25.

She sat beside a pile of her books four feet and three feet thick that would have offered adequate sand-bagging against a Scud missile attack. The shop had taken 1,000 advance orders. The printing presses which produced an initial batch of 150,000 copies are about to roll with more. She fixed her smile at the fusillade

of flashguns. Recent extensive engineering work on her teeth has subtly altered her face, and somehow contrives to make her look older or younger, depending on the light. The imperious manner remains intact.

"This way, Mrs Thatcher," the cameramen shouted. "I don't recognise that," she said coldly, retaining the smile as though practising ventriloquism. The photographers upped their imprecations, ascending through "Lady Thatcher" and "Baroness" until

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History in the making



"He looks utterly self-possessed. His lip is half-curling in what is almost a Castilian snarl. He is wearing a tiny bow-tie."

Matthew Parris writing on the secret childhood of MPs. Page 2

Berlusconi in election call

Silvio Berlusconi called for an autumn general election after Italians voted to leave intact his media empire. Page 13

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Little darlings who are still playing to the gallery

IF YOU want to know what makes MPs tick, there is no need to read Hansard. Spare yourself those turgid current affairs programmes on TV and give Yesterday in Parliament a miss. Just take yourself along to the Upper Waiting Hall at the Commons, where Sense (the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association) is staging an exhibition.

It contains only eight exhibits: photographs of eight children. They are (or were to become) Edwina Currie, Norman Tebbit, Margaret Beckett, Michael Portillo, Paddy Ashdown, Ian Paisley, Virginia Bottomley and Liz Lynne. The pictures are worth a political library.

Ian Paisley (aged seven) is ostentatiously at prayer. Palms clasped together and mouth open, his glance is partly at the camera, partly in search of a wider audience. There is something else you may notice in that childish pose: a twinkle in little Ian's eye. He's playing to the gallery, and he knows that you know he's showing off. And there's almost a wink.

Michael Portillo (about eight) looks utterly self-possessed. Glancing at the camera with a fine disregard, his lip is half-curved in what is almost a Castilian snarl. He is wearing a tiny bow-tie.

Laugh if you like, but there is a sense in which that Portillo absolutely knows, in some unarticulated part of himself, that it can only be a matter of time before the world realises what he already does: that this is a potential prime minister. His hair is light brown and



Don't we all look wonderful? Virginia Bottomley, left, Liz Lynne, Edwina Currie and Ian Paisley...



... Margaret Beckett, Norman Tebbit and, with not a quiff in sight, Michael Portillo

flat: no quiff in sight. We are sorry that, since this photograph was taken, Mr Portillo has given up the hand-knitted woolly jumpers. At the age of three, Margaret

Jackson had yet to clip on the plastic earrings, but the co-ordinated dress and socks are already in place. The girl who was to become Margaret Beckett looks at the same

time wilful, determined, and slightly anxious. Young Paddy Ashdown is very different. Let us hope the League Against Cruel Sports never gets hold of this

photograph. He must have been about 12, and already the action-man pose is there as he stands confidently by the lakeside, holding an enormous fish. The boast is

implicit, but a very slight question troubles our admiration: did Paddy actually catch the fish?

If Edwina Cohen did not, at five, have a little curl right in the middle of her forehead, she should have. Flashing a wild, wicked, gap-toothed smile at the camera, here is a young madam if ever there was one.

Virginia Garnett is more composed. Already in gingham at six, she clasps her hands across her lap and gazes at us in a manner wholly businesslike, yet indefinitely coquettish.

Norman Tebbit appears to have pulled the head off his toy rabbit. At three, sitting calmly on a zebra-skin rug, he raises a finger as though laying down the law. He looks very assured.

Few who know the adult versions of these little monsters will fail to spot which is which. There is only one who seems to have changed, and that is the Liberal Democrats' now-slinky Liz Lynne, who has kept her dimples but was otherwise plainer as a child. Perhaps worried we might not guess, the MP was to be found yesterday standing next to her photo, exclaiming "Look! It's me! Don't we all look wonderful? Don't I look sweet?"

A very senior Tory passed, glared at the infant Tebbit, and snorted "Hmph! Looking like that you could almost like him."

The exhibition aims to convince the public of the need for early immunisation against fatal diseases. I wonder if Sense has thought this one through?



Paddy Ashdown aged about 12: but did he catch the fish?

Mayhew extends mercy leave for Ulster prisoners

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

COMPASSIONATE leave for prisoners in Northern Ireland is to be extended, Sir Patrick Mayhew announced last night. The Northern Ireland Secretary said that the move was not linked with the decision on whether to free Private Lee Clegg, the paratrooper jailed for the murder of a

place. Sir Patrick said: "On advice from the chief constable, a large number of important relaxations have been made in security measures. I hope that trend can continue, as it will if we are advised the terrorist threat continues to diminish," he said.

Over the years, the scheme's conditions had been followed strictly "to a most impressive degree" by prisoners, including those convicted of the most serious offences. He said: "There isn't any question of a link between the case of Private Clegg and any consideration of possible changes to remission rates or other regime changes for prisoners in Northern Ireland or anywhere

else in the UK. Private Clegg's case will be treated in accordance with this established practice solely on its merits. There is no question of one law for the security forces and another for the rest."

Sir Patrick defended the Government's insistence on the continuance of the Act this year, saying: "Like insurers we have to assess the risks for those people for whom we are responsible." He asked MPs to remember the "hideous terrorist crimes committed in 1994 alone before the ceasefire occurred."

Sinn Féin last night dismissed the Government's changes in compassionate leave for prisoners as "cosmetic". Pat McGown, the party's prison spokesman, said that the "latest tinkering" with compassionate parole fell well short of expectations. He added: "Yet again the Northern Ireland office has seemingly concentrated on giving the appearance of softening its stance while doing little to improve conditions for prisoners."

Since the ceasefires last year, Loyalists and Republicans have repeatedly demanded the release of so-called political prisoners. The Government has rejected these calls on the ground that there are no political prisoners in the United Kingdom.



Sir Patrick Mayhew

Bar wins right to keep CPS lawyers out of Crown Court

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar has won its long-running battle to retain the right to take the big criminal cases in the Crown Court and keep out lawyers from the Crown Prosecution Service.

In what is a big blow for 2,000 lawyers in the CPS, the committee that advises the Lord Chancellor on advocacy rights has decided that lawyers working for the Government should not be allowed into the Crown Court.

The decision, on which the committee was almost equally split, has infuriated the Law Society, which is fighting for the advocacy rights on behalf of some 1,500 solicitors in the CPS. Barbara Mills, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions and head of the service, is also understood to be angry.

Both she and the Law Society had put forward compromise proposals, in which CPS lawyers would be allowed to take only a defined group of the less serious Crown Court cases. But by a narrow majority the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee under Lord Justice Steyn has said it would be against even that. It has given the society no reasons.

The Law Society is up in arms over the committee's response and the length of time it has taken, and has published the committee's let-

ter despite a request that it remain confidential.

In a letter of reply, Charles Ely, the Law Society's president, says the committee's decision is a "major disappointment, given the length of time the committee has been considering the matter". He adds: "It is particularly unfortunate that your letter fails to give any reasons for the committee's position."

It will now fall to a group of the most senior judges, headed by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to consider the committee's advice and decide whether to endorse it.

Five years after the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, aimed at removing the profession's monopolies, lawyers in the CPS or government service are no nearer winning advocacy rights they want.

Government plans to introduce "no win, no fee" American-style litigation, allowing lawyers to double their fees in successful cases, was denounced in the Lords last night by the Lord Chief Justice. The "outrageous" proposal was an "alien creature" that should not be allowed to run amok. Lord Taylor of Gosforth said. The Conditional Fee Agreements Order and Regulations Bill received a Lords majority of five.

Major doubts

Continued from page 1
Positive Europe group. He is also reported to be meeting pro-European MPs. Last night sources on the Tory Left called tonight's encounter a "panic move".

Fresh signs of the Government's firm line emerged yesterday when ministers scorned German Christian Democrat proposals to decide EU foreign policy by majority voting. Sources said the need to retain a national veto was essential to good decision-making and the United Nations force in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a "coalition of the willing". Using unusually scathing language, ministers said that effective decision-making did not depend on treating but on which states were ready to take military risks. "That's the reality," one source said.

The Government's attempt to mount a pre-emptive strike on today's German plans reflects euphoric assessments of the first exchange of views between Mr Major and President Chirac and a judgement that the European Union summit in Cannes will not bring unpleasant surprises.

However, there will be alarm on the Right over indications from senior government sources that it feels it has "room to manoeuvre" on new powers for the European Parliament.

Over the past few weeks, ministers and spokesmen have oscillated between flat opposition to any increase in the Parliament's powers and admissions that concessions may be made next year.

Tonight's showdown at the Commons between Mr Major and sceptics is likely to be attended by Norman Lamont, one of the Prime Minister's sharpest critics since being sacked two years ago, and a potential "stalking horse" challenger. However, the former Chancellor is being advised to steer clear of such intrigue. Tory MPs spoke yesterday of support for Mr Major ebbing away in the face of the Government's dismal ratings in the polls and his failure to heal the internal Tory rift over Europe.

The Prime Minister will attempt to convince his critics that he should be entrusted with directing the explosive negotiations over Maastricht II and a single currency. He will know that many at today's meeting are so opposed to his stance on Europe that they are ready to ally themselves with other dissidents to secure the 33 names needed for a leadership challenge in November.

Baroness's circus

Continued from page 1
they were shouting "Ma'am." Fortunately they were hustled out before the stakes reached "Your Majesty".

Cheap fibre-tip pen poised, she received the first customer with his volume open at the title page. The Rev George Benis, 71, a retired clergyman from South Kensington, confessed as soon as he was out of earshot: "I never voted for her - I'm a Liberal Democrat. But I am an amateur bookbinder, and I want to encase this one in leather."

A woman approached the table, book in one hand, small child in the other. "Give the kid a sweet, baroness," the photographers pleaded. "No, we're here to sign books." Sir Denis retorted a mite testily. For two hours they paraded in front of her, a loyal fan club as anxious for a sight as a signature. Another woman in the queue told her: "Mrs Thatcher, we need you to speak out for us." The baron-

ess replied: "I'm always getting into trouble for speaking out."

An American in the queue revealed himself to be George Bush's former chief of protocol at the White House. "This one is for me, but I am sure another copy is winging its way to Kennebunkport," Joseph Reed said.

Two hours, a thousand copies signed. Then, in private, another 300 ordered by phone. Eddie Bell, chairman of publishers HarperCollins, watched in admiration. "She signs faster than any other author I've met; she's even faster than Jeffrey Archer."

The circus continues: Harrods and Dillons today, followed by signings in the provinces and promotional tours of France and US, with Australia in the diary for later in the year. She will just have time to break off next Monday to go to Windsor Castle to be installed as a Knight of the Garter by Her Real Majesty.

Court outlaws pit pay strikes

Continued from page 1
A series of one-day strikes over pay scheduled to begin today by the National Union of Mineworkers was ruled unlawful yesterday by the Court of Appeal. The court held that the legal "use-by" date of the ballot sanctioning the stoppages ran out at midnight last night.

Three Court of Appeal judges confirmed a High Court injunction granted last Friday to RJB Mining, the pit owners, against the action. Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, said afterwards that union leaders would stage a new ballot.

The Government yesterday ordered the local authorities in Devon, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Newcastle, Sheffield and Norwich to make budget cuts totalling £24 million. Three others were given permission to spend in excess of their cap.

Sea search fails
Hopes were fading last night for three men missing in the Channel on the maiden voyage of their 14ft fishing boat. An air and sea search failed to find Tom Davies, 36; his brother Les, 34, and Andrew Sparks, 29, fishing out of Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Pool victims
The mother and children found drowned in a council swimming pool at the weekend were named as Christina Akintunde, 44, Emmanuel, 4, and Victoria, 2½, from Notting Hill, west London. Ms Akintunde left behind a baby girl.

Female first
One of the BBC's most senior news executives, Sara Nathan, yesterday became the first woman to head a British network television news service when she was appointed editor of Channel 4 News. Ms Nathan, 39, succeeds Richard Tail.

Essex drops free transport for grammar schools

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

FREE transport for thousands of grammar school pupils was scrapped yesterday in defiance of parents and evidence showing the change will save £1 million less than expected.

An alliance of Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors voted to charge new grammar school entrants for travel to school next year. The decision by Essex County Council's education committee will save £637,000 over a decade and leave some parents facing

annual bills of more than £1,000. The county's eight grammar schools condemned the change as an attack on the principle of free state education. They vowed to continue their fight for free transport and said they would consider taking legal action on the ground of discrimination.

The education committee approved the plan by 31 votes to 13 after a two-hour debate. A succession of Labour and Liberal Democrat speakers insisted they were interested only in cost-cutting and blamed a government funding squeeze for the meas-

ure. Derek Hardy, Liberal Democrat chairman of the committee, rejected claims that the move was vindictive and spiteful towards grammar schools. He said the present selective school transport policy was "extravagant and unaffordable".

David Rex, Conservative education spokesman, criticised councillors' estimates of potential savings as fantasy. He ridiculed original figures of £1.6 million and questioned whether the change would save even £100,000 in its first year.

A report submitted to the committee

by officers shows that the present service costs £1.6 million annually for 3,476 pupils. Yet it accepts that about £300,000 of this would be needed to pay for pupils still entitled to free transport because they live more than three miles from the nearest school. Furthermore, officials calculate that of this £1.3 million, only £637,000 would be available as savings as the rest would revert automatically to individual secondary schools under the common funding formula.

NUT reversal, page 1

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هكذا نمنع الأهل

I hope he drinks himself to death. He has been nothing but a curse, says adoptive mother

Lottery winners show a clean pair of heels as their families dish dirt

BY ANDREW PIERCE

CALLED a two-faced liar by his estranged wife and reviled by his adoptive mother, Mark Gardiner, joint winner of Britain's biggest lottery payout, came forward yesterday to show the world the sunnier side of his nature.

Within 24 hours of his half share of the £22.5 million win being confirmed, Mr Gardiner's third wife vowed to sue him for every penny. Irene Creswell, his 68-year-old adoptive mother, added for good measure: "I hope he drinks himself to death with his money."

Mr Gardiner, 33, and Paul Maddison, 43, with whom he runs a glazing company, emerged from hiding, undaunted by the stream of invective from family and "former friends". The pair arrived at the back door of the headquarters of the Lottery organisers, Camelot, shortly before a press conference and began the transformation by shedding their shell-suits in the lavatory and reappearing in £140 Next suits.

Flanked by the latest woman in his life, Brenda McGill, 39, a nursing home supervisor, Mr Gardiner declared that the win would not change his life. He said: "I will buy a new car." Mr Maddison added: "We stayed up half the night to work out how to spend the money and we only got to £1 million."

Both men said they intended to continue working for their glazing company and Mr Gardiner joked: "I might get a new van."

He was a long way from coming, to terms with the unwelcome publicity his jack-

A man who has spent £660 on lottery tickets and failed to win a single prize yesterday took Camelot, the lottery organiser, to court to test its claim that the chances of a prize are 56 to 1. Arthur Coward, a factory unit manager, spent six months to work out his claim that the odds are 1,132, making a win 20 times less likely than Camelot says. Mr Coward yesterday launched legal proceedings at Watford County Court, accusing Camelot of misrepresentation. After a closed 20-minute hearing before a deputy district judge, the case was adjourned until a later date. Mr Coward said: "I couldn't believe the odds were wrong but I have looked into it and they are." Mr Coward is claiming his money back.

pot had generated. Kim, his estranged wife, claimed that she threw him out because of his drinking bouts and that she is now living on £65 a week income support with their two-year-old daughter. She said: "I deserve half because he has never paid anything towards me or our daughter or the mortgage. I can't wait to see him."

Mr Gardiner replied: "It's all very sad. There are two sides to every story. When this all calms down I hope you will ask my true friends who will tell the truth about me. I just hope all this publicity does not put people off buying our windows." Mr Gardiner changed his name after falling out with his adoptive

parents. He has reverted to the name of his natural parents who live in Reading. He has no contact with them or with his adoptive parents.

Irene Creswell said: "I haven't seen him since he won. I don't want to. I wish he was dead. He has been nothing but a curse to this family. I adopted him as a tot in 1962 and cared for him as my own. Things started going wrong when he was 16. When he got married to his second wife I refused to go into the church until he left the pub. He even missed his daughter's second birthday."

Mr Gardiner declined to say whether his relatives, adopted or natural, would share his good fortune. "We've not got that far," he said. He said he had no wish to contact his natural parents. "They have got their own lives to lead. It was a long time ago."

While refusing to be drawn on whether his estranged wife would receive any money, he was adamant about their daughter. Asked whether he would give Jessica any money, he said: "Of course, what do you think?"

The win has not prompted an impulsive marriage proposal to his girlfriend, who sat clutching his hand throughout the hour-long press conference. Ms McGill, who has shared his home for the past eight months, said: "Mark is Mark. I should know. I live with him." Asked about marriage, he said: "I don't think she would have me. But if she does, it would not be a joint bank account."

The men laid out £50 on Saturday and stuck to the same numbers they have used since the lottery was launched.



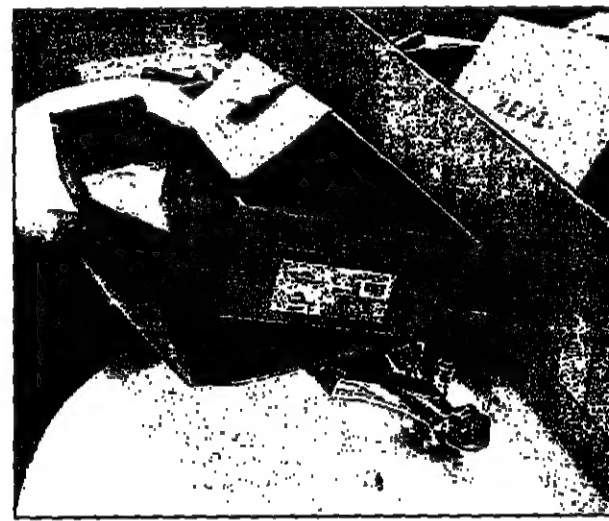
Paul Maddison, left, with his wife Ruth and Brenda McGill with her partner Mark Gardiner. The sales tickets on their new shoes were clearly visible during the celebrations. Below, the empty shoeboxes in the cloakroom

Their biggest previous win had been £10, which they immediately reinvested in more tickets. "We won't be doing that with this win," said Mr Gardiner. "But I will buy another ticket on Saturday." Mr Maddison's wife Ruth, 40, a primary school teacher, thought they were spending too much on their weekly flutter. Yesterday she said: "I'm afraid I have to eat my hat. I thought it was a total waste of money. I thought the likelihood of them winning was so remote."

Mrs Maddison plans to spend some of her share of the windfall on singing lessons. "I've got a terrible voice," she said. The couple, who have

been married for seven years, will also buy a bigger home to replace the modest home they have lived in for the past five years in Hastings. Mr Maddison has two sons, aged 11 and 18, from his previous marriage. Both men have been inundated with congratulatory telephone calls but one was particularly sweet. It came from the manager of his local National Westminster Bank. Mr Gardiner said: "It was time to review the overdraft. I told him I would not be coming in. He was very understanding. Perhaps next time I go to see him I might even get a cup of coffee."

Leading article, page 17



Porsche test drive ends with three deaths

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A ONE-DAY promotion for Porsche at a country hotel in mid-Wales ended in disaster when a £56,000 Porsche Carrera 911 on a test drive crashed and burst into flames, killing three people.

The sports car was in collision with a Renault 5 while being put through its paces on a road near the village of Llysven, Powys, on Sunday. The two people in the Porsche and the one in the Renault were burnt beyond recognition. Police are using dental records to identify them.

A man thought to be a potential buyer died alongside a salesman demonstrating the vehicle, though it remained uncertain who was behind the wheel. The dead Renault driver was named locally as Karen Dalley, 22, an assistant manager at the Llanged Hall country hotel owned by Sir Bernard Ashley, husband of the late Laura Ashley, where the promotion was held.

More than a dozen potential customers were invited to the hotel for a presentation of nine Porsche models before a reception on the hotel lawn. One of the businessmen was being taken for the demonstration drive in the 168mph Porsche when the accident occurred 400 yards from the hotel.

Miss Dalley was travelling to the hotel, near Builth Wells, from her parents' home at Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, when she was killed. The salesman was based at Merlins (Cambrian) dealership in Cardiff, the main Porsche agents in Wales.

The wife, son and daughter-in-law of the dead businessman, who is believed to be from Devon, were waiting in the hotel as he set off on the test drive at noon on Sunday. All three victims were trapped in the wreckage and the blaze was so fierce that firefighters were unable to rescue them.

Inspector John Evans, of Dyfed-Powys Police, said all aspects of the collision were under consideration. But he added: "We believe that speed was a factor in the tragedy."

A fire brigade spokesman said: "It is a fast stretch of road with a slight bend, which encourages motorists to speed. There have been lots of accidents although nothing as serious as this one."

While not attributing blame for the crash, the AA urged car dealerships to take "reasonable precautions" over customer test drives of high-speed vehicles. In April, a man who took an £85,000 Ferrari on a test drive was killed when the car hit a tree and burst into flames.

Battling Zara waves goodbye to two years in a sterile room

By LUCY BERRINGTON



Zara: entered the real world

A GIRL, who has spent most of her short life sealed in a sterile room, was waved off by hospital staff into the germ-infested world yesterday.

Zara Albright, 2½, had been confined to her 8th by 4ft bacteria-free zone since March 1993 when she arrived at Newcastle General Hospital suffering from severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome, a rare condition that destroys natural defences against illness. From the time Zara was six

months old, everything she ate, breathed and touched had been sterilised. She left her sterile room, where she lived with her mother Shabina, 36, only for chemotherapy and operations that included three bone marrow transplants.

Her father, Simon, 37, an optician from Birmingham who commuted to the hospital weekly, said yesterday: "I don't think it will sink in until we are all in the car and heading for home."

Linda Ridley, 24, a hospital worker who helped to maintain

Zara's sterile environment, said: "It's so sad in one way that we're losing her, but it's a really happy occasion."

"When Zara first arrived she was very poorly and she's had a few ups and downs since then, so it's wonderful to see her leaving so well and full of life. She just captures your heart."

Zara emerged from hospital smiling broadly in the arms of nurse Angie Johnson, 31. She handed a "thank you" card to Dr Mario Abizua, a member of her

medical team, and left amid shouted goodbyes.

Nurse Johnson said: "You just wouldn't believe this little girl. She was so sick and yet she's won through. I just can't believe that after all this time she's finally going home. We all loved her and will miss her very much. I can't wait to go and visit her at home."

Dr Andrew Cant, who leads one of the two British medical teams specialising in the condition, said: "This feels pretty remarkable. Zara is the most difficult case we've ever

managed who has got this far. It feels fantastic. You can't do a job like this and not get attached to the babies. It's very sad to see babies die, so when babies go home looking as well as Zara it's just wonderful."

The Albrights realised their daughter was ill when she began losing weight rapidly at three months. Mrs Albright had seen the condition in her sister's child, who died five years ago, and Zara's illness was confirmed at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham.

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By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

No other church in the worldwide Anglican Communion is thought to have ar-

Sir Michael said: "We have

The commissioners provide a quarter of the £600 million needed to run the Church of England. The remainder is financed by parishes, dioceses and cathedrals. Church members have responded to the crisis by giving more. Estimates for 1993 put the average at more than £3 per week.



BY NICHOLAS WATT

Garnet Stephen Bell, 46, unemployed, from East Belfast, launched the attack at Sullivan Upper School in Hollywood, Co Down, last June after months of planning, it was alleged. Ronald Appleton.

Mr Appleton claimed that Mr Bell had a grudge against his former school because it had allegedly failed to give him

The "severe and horrible" injuries suffered by the three — Darren Crawford, Stephen Crossland and Adam Aston — would show Mr Bell had intended to kill them. "It will be apparent that this attack was not general or random."

The case continues.

☐ The telephone number for Reads nursery, Loddon, Norfolk, is 01508 548 395 (Week-end, June 10).

BY PAUL WILKINSON

There has been no reported damage to property in the Manningsham district."

Youth leaders in Mannings-

Mr Cairns yesterday led a delegation of nine councillors to meet senior officers of the

Behind the riots, page 15
Ray Honeyford, page 16
Leading article, page 17

[illegible]

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 13 1995

Surveys point to family neglect

Fathers prefer TV and gardening to time with children

By Lucy Berrington

MOST fathers spend less than five minutes a day with their children, choosing to watch television rather than read them a bedtime story, a survey published yesterday shows.

The study of paternal neglect found 15 per cent of British fathers spend no time at all with their children on weekdays. Daughters received even less attention than sons, according to the survey commissioned by the charity Care for the Family.

Rob Parsons, executive director of Care and author of *The Sixty Minute Father*, said: "What I find staggering is that fathers prefer sports and hobbies, gardening, DIY or TV, and then time with kids comes way down. I think the fathers will regret it."

The study coincided with the publication of research by the charity Barnardo's that 53 per cent of all adults think children in 1995 are less likely to have loving homes than those of a generation ago.

The research, by MORI, showed most adults believed childhood itself had deteriorated into a 1990s horror story of family breakdown, poverty, unemployment and crime. Even parents from prosperous households shared an exten-

ching despair over the future of their children, it concluded.

Only 13 per cent of adults felt childhood in the 1990s was an improvement on the past and a mere 12 per cent believed today's children would inherit a better world than that of their parents.

Roger Singleton, senior director of Barnardo's, said: "It is widely believed children no longer grow up in a secure environment. What is alarming is that a cross-section of adults from various social groups share these concerns."

Barnardo's launched a campaign against child poverty as its survey, *The Facts of Life*, found a growing minority of children (one in four) is raised in poverty-stricken households despite wider national prosperity. Almost nine in ten of 1,069 adults questioned witnessed thought children

more crime and violence than a generation ago. Three in five adults believed children were more likely to worry about parental break-up, compared with just over one in ten who cited it as a factor in their own childhood.

Launching the Barnardo's campaign, Chris Eubank, the former super-middleweight world boxing champion and a father of three, said that like himself some children didn't have the advantage of coming from a secure family background. But if people heeded the campaign's message, children could be helped.

The Care study, carried out by National Opinion Poll, was based on the replies of 500 men from a range of backgrounds. But fathers yesterday rejected their share of the blame, citing work pressures and legal obstacles to healthier relationships.

Bruce Lidington, of the charity Families Need Fathers, said: "Why, if fathers don't care, are so many fighting tooth and nail to get more

involved? Our members try to be involved in normal, mid-week activities but we have a hard time persuading welfare officers it is in the best interests of the child."

Carol Revell, chairwoman of the national council of Gingerbread, the charity for single parents, said: "It makes you wonder how people can lay the blame on single parents. A lot of single parents are men, but I doubt if they spend so little time with their children."

Historians concluded that the surveys reflected familiar levels of parental paranoia. Dr Ross McKibbin, fellow of St John's College, Oxford, said: "There was the same panic in the 1940s, in the inter-war years, in the Edwardian period. My feeling is families were always pretty rascally."



Prince Edward getting in the swing yesterday at the launch in London of his first television series with, from left to right, real tennis players Jonathan Howell, Fiona Deuchar, Sue Haswell and Lachlan Deuchar

Edward serves up first TV venture

By Alexandra Frean

PRINCE EDWARD, the first child of a British monarch to set out on an independent business career, said yesterday that being part of royalty had its drawbacks. While it may help to get a foot in the door, "from thereon it's very hard work."

He was launching the first television series from Arden, his independent production company, a three-parter on real tennis to be shown on Channel 4, starting on Saturday morning.

The Prince, 30, speaking of the pressures he faces, said: "No broadcaster wants to touch anything that has Arden attached to it that is not going to work."

Real Tennis sets out to explain the game to the uninitiated. Played on an indoor court, it dates from the 11th century and has been described as a cross between lawn tennis, squash and chess. There are 3,000 players in Britain.

Diary, page 16



Eubank backs campaign

PCC adjudication

Mr J. A. Hazledine, of Chester, complained to the Press Complaints Commission that children who were the alleged victims of an indecent assault were identifiable through fig-saw identification due to a breach of clause 13 (children in sex cases) of the code of practice by *The Times* on May 1.

The Times responded immediately to the complaint, apologising fully for an irrefutable breach of the code. The

newspaper told the commission that, as soon as the breach was realised, a memorandum was sent reminding those in charge of all departments of the paper of their obligations to work within the code.

The commission regrets this serious lapse by *The Times* and expects the Editor to ensure that the procedures put in place to prevent it recurring are effective. The complaint is upheld.

THE TIMES

A holiday hideaway for life



The Times offers readers the chance to win luxury holiday accommodation in a beautiful location. The four winners of our competition will receive a week's holiday accommodation each year for the rest of their lives, in one of four luxury timeshare homes. Our prize resorts are Cameron House Estate in Scotland, Silver Lake Resort in Florida, Miraflores Beach and Country Club in Spain and Four Seasons Vilamoura in Portugal (pictured above). The prizes are offered by *The Times* in conjunction with the holiday exchange company RCI.

Part of the prize is three years' membership of RCI, which means that for this period the four winners can exchange their week at their prize location for holidays at

alternative timeshare resorts in the RCI network. In the Far East, the Caribbean, India and other parts of the world.

As RCI members, winners will be able to bank their time and request a week at one of the 2,900 resorts in the network. They could pick a property for holidays in the sun, for winter sports, or a walking break. Choose from locations in 80 countries. RCI will pay for flights for each winner and a companion to visit the resort in the first year.

Each of the four is designated a "Gold Crown" resort by RCI, an award it gives to just 13 per cent of its many locations, signifying excellence. Therefore the winners can expect outstanding holidays in great locations year after year.

HOW TO ENTER

Collect five out of the seven tokens appearing in *The Times* each day and attach them to the entry form published on Saturday, June 10. Then send your entry to: *The Times*/RCI Holiday Competition, PO Box 6883, London EC8P 5ST, to arrive no later than Monday, July 3 1995.

The winners will be the first four entries picked at random from the entries after the closing date. The post bag, after the closing date, winners will be notified by post. Normal Times competition rules apply. Timeshare holiday bookings by the winners are subject to RCI's usual terms and conditions.



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BRITISH AEROSPACE

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مكتبة المنهج

Defence Minister voices support for multinational project likely to cost Britain £14.9bn

BaE deal with Saab poses little risk to Eurofighter

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has "passed the point of no return" with the Eurofighter 2000 combat aircraft programme after spending £2 billion on development, according to Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister.

Mr Freeman's apparent blessing for Eurofighter despite rising costs and continued technical delays came as British Aerospace, the principal British defence company involved in developing the four-nation Eurofighter, agreed to build and sell a Swedish combat aircraft that remains, theoretically, a rival to the European jet.

British Aerospace signed a deal with the Swedish Saab company yesterday to develop and export its Gripen fighter aircraft. At the same time, the British defence company is hoping to become the prime contractor for the whole Eurofighter programme when Britain, Germany, Italy and



Weston: joint venture

Spain meet to agree the production phase later this year.

However, with the total cost of the Eurofighter aircraft programme to British taxpayers, including development, production and integrated logistic support, now estimated to be £14.9 billion of the £34 billion total, the Ministry of Defence is still evaluating all the alternatives, despite Mr Freeman's confidence that Eurofighter will go ahead. BAE is hoping to extend its

share of the work from one third to about 40 per cent, although the Germans are objecting to any big change in work-share.

BAE is taking on the Gripen, a smaller and less combat-capable aircraft, because it sees the Swedish fighter as filling the gap, in terms of production and sales, between the successful Hawk trainer jet at one end and the multi-role Eurofighter at the other.

The RAF has already discarded the Gripen because it does not measure up. In a joint study by BAE and the Ministry of Defence, it was estimated that in air combat the American F22, now under development, would win against any opposition in 95-100 per cent of cases, compared with Eurofighter's 85-90 per cent and Gripen's 60-70 per cent.

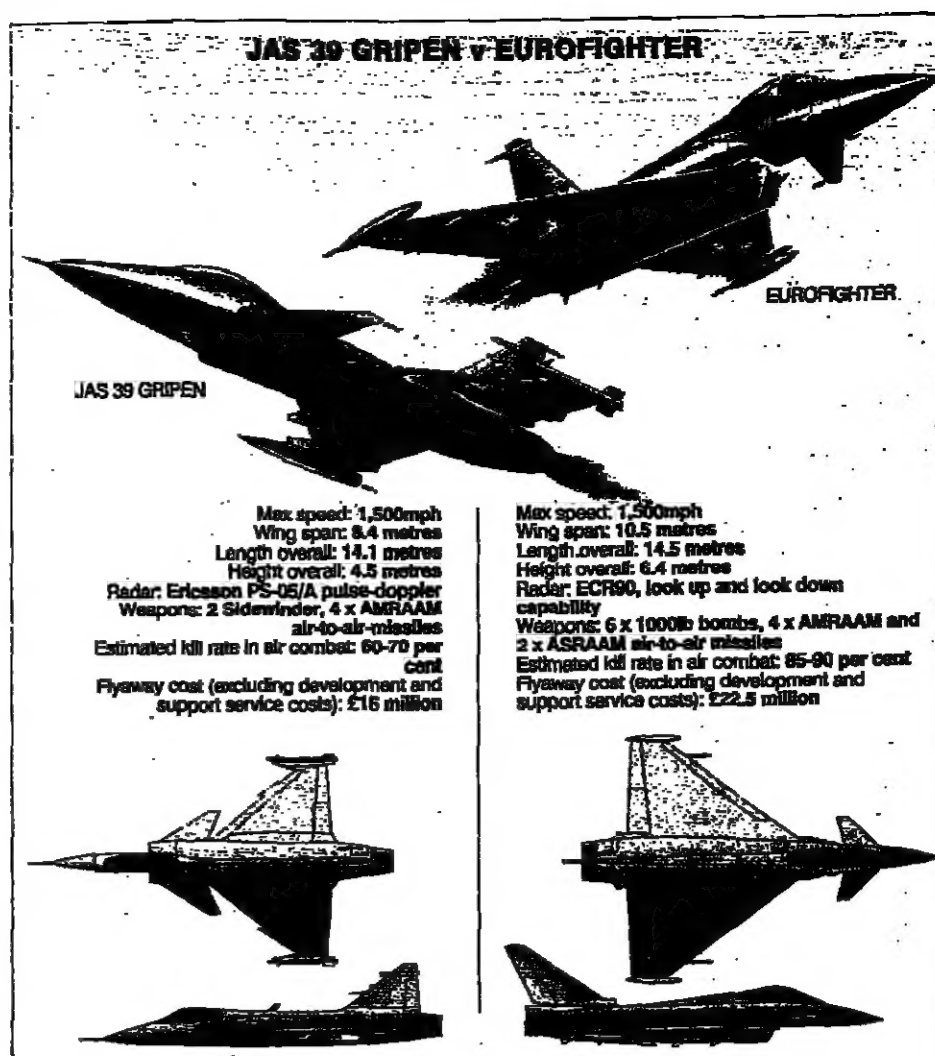
The Eurofighter, the RAF says, will be able to carry more missiles, more fuel, a bigger radar, and it has two engines, compared with the Gripen's single engine. However, the MoD confirmed yesterday

that evaluations were continuing into Eurofighter alternatives, "because it makes good business sense".

It was originally hoped that Eurofighter would be demonstrated at the Paris Air Show but there are still technical problems to resolve. The Gripen has also faced its difficulties. It was plagued by flight control problems and its costs have risen. The flight test programme was temporarily halted in 1990 after a Gripen crashed during a flying display in Stockholm.

After yesterday's deal between BAE and Saab was announced at the Paris Air Show, John Weston, chairman and managing director of BAE, said in Paris: "The relationship between our two companies provides a firm foundation from which to launch a first-class aircraft on the market. I am confident both companies will reap excellent rewards from this joint venture."

Missile merger, page 25



JAS 39 GRIPEN

Max speed: 1,500mph
Wing span: 8.4 metres
Length overall: 14.1 metres
Height overall: 4.5 metres
Radar: Ericsson PS-05/A pulse-Doppler
Weapons: 2 Sidewinder, 4 x AMRAAM
Estimated kill rate in air combat: 60-70 per cent
Flyaway cost (excluding development and support service costs): £16 million

Max speed: 1,500mph
Wing span: 10.5 metres
Length overall: 14.5 metres
Height overall: 6.4 metres
Radar: ECR70, look up and look down capability
Weapons: 6 x 1000lb bombs, 4 x AMRAAM and 2 x ASRAAM air-to-air missiles
Estimated kill rate in air combat: 85-90 per cent
Flyaway cost (excluding development and support service costs): £22.5 million

EU sends monitors to tuna grounds

By MICHAEL HORNBY

EMMA BONINO, the European Fisheries Commissioner, is to visit the tuna fishing waters in the Bay of Biscay where British and other European fishermen compete for the same catch.

The Commission has chartered a boat, *Northern Horizon*, to patrol the tuna waters in the Mediterranean and northern Atlantic. Signora Bonino, who intends to be on board for several days in mid-July when the number of boats fishing for tuna will be approaching its seasonal peak, likens her role to that of a football referee.

She promised that she would be as tough with Spanish harassment as she was with Canada's "gunboat diplomacy" over halibut fishing off Newfoundland. When it came to fish conservation, no country had a blancher record. "There are no saints or handouts," she said.

The first British boats are expected to sail for the tuna grounds from Newlyn, Cornwall, this week.

Nasa offers space odyssey to Mars via the armchair

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NASA is planning to bring the thrills of space to a wider audience by allowing people to travel to Mars in virtual reality. The American space agency is developing a system that will allow armchair astronauts to feel as if they are walking or driving on the Red Planet's surface. It could be available in ten years.

Carl Pilcher, an astronomer at NASA's headquarters in Washington, said yesterday: "We want to open up space to the people who are paying for it - the taxpayers."

With virtual reality we can bring the planets into their living rooms, which will whet their appetites for the space programme." Dr Pilcher is head of the Mission from Planet Earth staff office.

The scheme, which uses special headsets and clothing to simulate real life, could even be extended to manned missions such as those in which the shuttle launches a satellite or flies to the Mir space station.

Cameras and microphones placed around the shuttle would become the eyes and ears of millions of armchair astronauts so they could feel as if they were actually taking part in a mission.

The project, being studied at the agency's Ames Research

Centre in Mountain View, California, could also be politically astute. The agency is seeking a joint venture with entertainment and technology companies, allowing NASA to exploit commercially its huge library of photographs, data and knowledge of the effects of space flight on humans.

Nasa's budget is under increasing pressure from right-wing elements in Congress, who view space exploration as a luxury that the agency cannot afford. Bringing space missions to the masses could help to arrest Nasa's financial decline by giving it wider political support.

Dr Pilcher said: "I would make an analogy with the time baseball was first televised in this country."

"Team owners were afraid that fans would not come to the grounds if they could see it on TV. But it expanded the sport's popularity and made it a family affair."

Computer simulators have been around for years and are used to train pilots. Virtual reality uses computer tricks to generate artificial worlds that look and sound like the real thing. Researchers are also contemplating waiting smells into the participant's nose to make the experience even more realistic.

Chief scientist who inspired Stoppard

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Government's new chief scientist is an expert in chaos theory who has held chairs in physics, biology and zoology on three continents.

Professor Robert May, 59, Royal Society Research Professor in the zoology department at Oxford University, will take over as Chief Scientific Adviser on September 1. Downing Street announced yesterday. His predecessor, Sir William Stewart, has retired from the public service at the end of his contract.

Professor May was born in Australia and held a chair in theoretical physics at Sydney University in the early 1970s. He then moved to Princeton, switching to biology, holding a chair there for 15 years before coming to Britain in 1988.

His research has included studies of the way animal populations vary, with small changes producing unpredictable outcomes. This example of chaos theory in action inspired Tom Stoppard's hit play *Arcadia*, and Professor May helped the cast to under-



May: born in Australia

stand the science by attending rehearsals and conducting a seminar. The aim of the research is to find methods for short-term forecasting even of things that evolve in apparently chaotic ways. He has made predictions of the development of the AIDS epidemic.

The pressure group Save British Science welcomed his appointment and called on him to ensure more money for science, to create a strategy for government laboratories, to stimulate more research in industry and to improve science teaching in schools.

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مكتبة المثل

Tory activists are torn between past and present

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY party activists found their loyalties torn between their present and former leaders yesterday after Baroness Thatcher's attack on John Major.

While they were quick to emphasise that the party must remain united in the run-up to the general election, many were unable to condemn Lady Thatcher outright. Her critique of the Government, they said, echoed views expressed by many rank-and-file Tories in recent months, especially at the local elections in May, that the national party had lost its way. Many agreed with the former Prime Minister's view that the Government should return to "true Conservative values".

"Lady Thatcher is totally within her rights to say what she did," one Tory association chief said. "She is no longer leader of the party and she can say what she likes."

However, Michael Wilson, agent for the People's Conservative Association, said: "Like most activists, I am rather dismayed that former leaders are indulging in this sort of attack which cannot do the

party any good. If you have held a senior position, once you have relinquished it and handed it over to someone else, you should observe a discreet silence and let the successor get on with the job."

Other Tories disagreed, saying that there was no parallel between Lady Thatcher's comments and Sir Edward Heath's constant criticism of the Government during her time in office.

"I think someone who has done what she has done has a right to speak up," one association chief said. "She has transformed political thought in Britain. At the end of the day, Ted Heath's policies were in a shambles." He added: "Every individual has a right to their own views but it is important that we all rally together for the next election."

Another constituency chairman said that while many Tories were loyal to the present leadership, they also felt grateful for what Lady Thatcher had done. "I certainly don't regret anything she has said," he said. "However, he disagreed with Lady Thatcher's assertion that the Tory leader-

ship was not Conservative enough. "John Major is the most Conservative leader available at the present time and we should therefore support him fully."

Patrick Evershed, chairman of the Cities of London and Westminster Conservative Association, felt similarly. He said: "It remains very important as an election approaches to rally behind John Major."

One Tory association chief said that Mr Major might benefit from Lady Thatcher's attack if he headed her thinly veiled warning that the party should move towards the Right and take a more sceptical approach towards Europe. "I think she is sending out certain signals," he said. "Whether he accepts them or not is up to him."

For some, too much fuss was being made of Lady Thatcher's comments. Dilys Moye, chairwoman of the Tumbridge Wells Conservative Association, said: "I have not had a single call about what she said. I don't think it's causing tremendous concern and worry in the circles that I move in."



Major supporters in 1993. Loyalty remains but many also revere Lady Thatcher

Frustrated Right craves magical cuts formula

Remember the name Mike Harris. He could become as familiar in the right-wing debate in Britain as Newt Gingrich has been since last November. Mr Harris, a former ski and golf instructor, has just led the Progressive Conservatives to an unexpected landslide victory in the provincial elections in Ontario — just 18 months after the party's virtual destruction in the Canadian federal elections. His strongly right-wing "cut spending/cut taxes" platform had many echoes of Mr Gingrich's "Contract with America", as well as with the themes which Michael Portillo and John Redwood have been floating here and with Lady Thatcher's latest multi-media broadside.

In their frustration with John Major, the Tory Right have been looking at examples of Conservative success abroad. The victories of Mr Harris, and now of Mr Gingrich, offer the hope that uncompromising Conservatism can still appeal, and succeed. The Ontario election has, in many ways, closer parallels with Britain than November's revolution in the American Congress. There is a similarity of welfare policies, which have, until now, supported by all parties. Ontario, where one third of Canadians live, has seen a sharp rise in spending on social provision, a jump in public debt and higher taxes. Mr Harris proposed a 30 per cent cut in income taxes with linked spending cuts to balance the provincial budget in five years, a workable scheme for recipients of benefits, far-reaching privatisation, and an end to affirmative action. Mr Harris's campaign had a populist, anti-establishment appeal, as the House Republicans had last autumn.

British rightwingers hanker after the same themes. Mr Portillo and Mr Redwood have talked of the need for further cutbacks in the scope of the state. They believe it is necessary to reassert core Conservative values to regain lost supporters. Lady Thatcher is still the inspiration for this group.

It is time to separate Thatcher the book, the video, the audio tape, the television programme, and the revisionist historian from Thatcher

the Lady with a message for the Tory party. The former is an unrivalled book promoter. The latter touched on her party's rawest nerves with her comment that the Government is not highly regarded now "because people say we are not Conservative enough and they are right". Some of her opinions are bizarre: her depiction of the Major Government's approach to Europe as "Yes, Yes" will be seen as laughable by other European heads of government. Similarly, her criticism of Mr Major's policies on the family, public spending and the housing market ignore the difficulties which he inherited from her. The recession and associated rise in spending originated in policy errors during her years in office. Her

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

opposition to cuts in mortgage tax relief is long-standing but is contrary to the views of almost all free-market economists.

None of these qualifications will dent the belief of many rightwingers that everything would be all right if only spending was cut — on everything but law and order and defence — taxes were reduced, law and order maintained and family values proclaimed. But there are no magic wands in politics. Ask Peter Lilley, who has managed just to slow the growth of spending on social security after a series of highly contentious measures.

It is nonsense to pretend that eliminating waste is an answer. There is always scope for improving efficiency, but after the repeated squeezes of the past decade it will be hard to find further big savings quickly. Any cuts in programmes would produce cries of protest from Tory populists. The Gingrich and Harris victories have only a limited relevance for Britain because they were challenging unpopular incumbents. It is much harder for an unpopular incumbent to reinvent himself as a populist challenger. The Tories cannot disown responsibility for their 16 years in office.

PETER RIDDELL

'I admire Blair, but not his back-door socialism'

Continued from facing page the Conservative way forward, which is what I say, liberty is a moral quality. You have the right to use your God-given talents within a framework of law set by government.

JN: But you seem to think that that's a path that has somehow been departed from by the Government.

MT: Yes, indeed. The moment you get too many regulations, and of course it's Europe that's piling on the regulations and wants to pile on more, the more and more difficult it is to run business in your own area, the more difficult it is to compete with businesses in other countries outside Europe.

JN: You see I'm very struck reading your book about a very obvious parallel. You

talk very passionately about the days leading up to your assumption of the leadership in 1975, about the party's need for a revolution really, the failures that you had seen from the Cabinet table in 1970 to 1974, and what needed to be done about it. It's rather like your view of today. Do you believe that the Conservative Party needs the same kind of renewal now as it did at the end of the Heath years?

MT: No, I think we got the renewal right. For example we actually tackled step by step trade union power. Ted Heath had had a very brave go at it in 1970, and he did too much at once and then the miners and some of the trade unions were determined to show that they had the upper hand and they did. Not now — because I reckoned that if we got trade

union reform right the majority of people in the unions would be with us. We tackled the public expenditure and tax, and when I left office you know we'd had four years of surplus, budget surplus, and still lower taxation... and our reputation stood high in the world internationally.

JN: Are you afraid that the kind of changes that you want to see from this Government are more likely to happen in a period of opposition as they did before?

MT: Certainly not.

JN: But you say Labour have got the best leader for 30 years?

MT: I didn't say it had got the best policies. I can admire a person very much and I do admire him. I don't like his policies and it's socialism by the back door. If you have that

social charter in Europe, you'll put up all our costs, you'll make it more difficult for manufacturers. Germany's longing for us to have the social charter because it'll make us as non-competitive as she is becoming.

JN: But you think he's an impressive figure... he takes your eye?

MT: Look, I was an admirer of Mr Gaitskill. I thought that Harold Wilson was very clever in managing the House of Commons. I disagreed with their policies and I disagree intensely with the policies of the Labour Party as I believe they'll be when they come back. Their policies towards Europe — who can have faith in our Parliamentary democracy, in our rule of law, and want to go further into Europe? We taught the world

so much — we want to be true to what made us great and not retreat from it.

JN: Now you've completed your story in the second volume of your memoirs, so you've been looking back, looking at your own career. Do you feel sometimes that the old adage might be true, that every political career, whatever the great achievements along the way, in the end, it tends to end in failure.

MT: But I don't think it did end in failure. The reputation of Britain was high, the taxation was lower.

JN: I thought you were going to say it hadn't ended yet?

MT: No, no. I left the House of Commons and went to the House of Lords and my successor should know there was no question of my angling to come back. I think it's a great

mistake to go back... JN: What is the task for you and your party that you feel still lies ahead for you?

MT: It is as I've indicated to be true to the policies for which we were elected and on which John was elected. It is to have a capital-earning democracy. I never liked it when just a few had capital. I wanted everyone to have some. And home ownership and savings... I also wanted to have taxation that encouraged the family. This is the building block of society. Where do you go if you can't go home to your family. It is not only the social building block it is the economic... it's both, and I'm afraid it's being undermined in the same way. These are true Conservative things and we must get back to Conservative policies.

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Labour rebels set to defeat Rabin over Golan deal

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Labour Government was involved yesterday in frantic political horse-trading to prevent the collapse of the peace process with Syria.

A defeat in the Knesset tomorrow over the future of the occupied Golan Heights could also spell its own demise.

A backbench revolt by three Labour hawks has exposed the Government's vulnerable majority. One of the rebels is Avigdor Kahalani, a retired general who fought an heroic tank battle on the Golan against the Syrians in 1973.

Less than a month ago, the Government suffered a defeat when it was forced to abandon a plan to seize Palestinian land in Jerusalem; then, it was opposed by an unlikely alliance of anti-Zionist Arab leftists and right-wing Jews.

Tomorrow's ballot, which is strongly opposed by Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, seeks to increase to at least 70 the number of votes required to permit a transfer of the Golan back to Syria. The present, simple majority needed is 61. The return of the Golan is the key element of the American-sponsored Israeli-Syrian peace deal, revived last week by Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State.

Mr Rabin is flying home from the Paris Air Show to increase the pressure on the Labour rebels, but his chances of mustering sufficient votes to defeat the ballot are small. Before leaving for France, he

delivered a warning that the significance of the proposed Bill is "the cessation of negotiations with Syria".

Until the latest crisis erupted, the chances of peace had seemed more promising than at any time since the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid, with top-level military talks due to resume in Washington on June 27. The Israeli Prime Minister is now threatening to turn the ballot into a vote of confidence in an attempt to face down the rebels.

By last night the rebels, who account for just three of the 44 Labour members of the 120-strong Knesset, had shown little inclination to stand down. "If the issue brings down the Government, let the Government fall," Mr Kahalani said. "The Golan is more important than the Govern-



Rabin: flying back from Paris to save Government

ment," he said. He has so far received open backing from Emanuel Zisman and Yaacov Shefi, two Labour deputies. Pressure was being put on others, however, by the militant Golan lobby, which claims that Mr Rabin pledged during the 1992 elections to never abandon Israel's presence on the plateau.

Yesterday President Weizman brushed aside diplomatic ambiguity and confirmed publicly that Israel is prepared for a full withdrawal to the international border in exchange for peace.

Mr Rabin's best chance of survival now is to secure support from the six-strong Shas Party, an ultra-orthodox grouping that has not formerly attached either to Labour or the right-wing Likud Opposition.

A final decision may be linked to obscure Jewish marriage laws. Shas is unhappy about attempts by Labour to reduce rabbinical control over the blacklist of more than 4,000 Jews presently prevented from marrying for religious reasons. These include children born out of adultery.

Radio Israel predicted that the Shas Party could be persuaded not to vote against the Government by last-minute guarantees on the blacklist. A radio commentary also noted that the party was against increasing the existing simple majority as this would reduce its own political clout in the Knesset.



Leaders of Jordan's Islamic Action Party attend an extraordinary session of parliament in Amman yesterday to debate a Bill repealing anti-Israeli laws

Maoist guerrillas join forces with Peru drug dealers

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN TOCACHUE NUEVO, PERU

THE bullet holes in the walls of Tocache Nuevo's police station remind locals of who wields power in the remote jungle town, deep in the Huallaga valley of northern Peru, known as "cocaine valley".

Graffiti carved on the walls of the desolate local headquarters of the anti-drugs police conveys the message even more clearly: "Hands off our cocaine. We will kill anyone who stops the trade."

The attack, in which ten policemen were killed and more than a dozen passersby hurt, was not just another massacre by cocaine barons. It was part of a renewed offensive by the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas who in the past month have revived their terror campaign by working with drug traffickers. The Huallaga valley provides a third of the world's supply of coca leaf, the raw material used to produce cocaine, and is unofficially Peru's largest foreign exchange earner.

The guerrillas' new offensive comes after a setback in 1993 when the security forces arrested Abimael Guzman, the founder of the group in the capital, Lima. Dozens of regional rebel have also been arrested in the past two years.

Successors to Guzman have emerged, including Oscar Ramirez Duran who sees the group's involvement in the drugs trade as the only remaining means to further its campaign, which has claimed the lives of more than 27,000 people in 14 years.

"Sendero once supported the growing of coca leaf because it provided a livelihood for poor campesinos (peasants)," said Jose Villalobos, a farmer who makes a living from selling coca. "But they have now switched sides and have become narco-terrorists. They threaten us if we don't provide them with enough."

Shortly after the attack on Tocache Nuevo, police station, hooded rebels dragged more than a dozen peasants to the town square for not supplying enough coca leaf to traffickers. "They cut my fingers saying I had been a traitor to the revolution for not helping the cocaine trade," said one

victim who preferred to remain anonymous.

For most people in the area, the economic gain of growing the coca leaf is convincing enough. A 24lb bag of coca leaf sells for \$44. "It's the only way to feed our families," Senior Villalobos said.

Programmes to destroy coca fields, mounted by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in co-ordination with Peruvian police, have failed. "We'd cut down coca plantations but they would just crop up somewhere else," said a former Peruvian DEA volunteer.

From the air, green patches of coca leaf can be seen in the Huallaga valley and in the neighbouring Aguytia valley. Peruvians used to grow coca leaf and deliver it to Colombian cartels for processing, but a growing number of clandestine laboratories in which cocaine is produced have been found in the Huallaga valley. Last week police confiscated three tons of chemicals, needed for the production of cocaine.



Ames books name double agents he betrayed to KGB

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ALDRICH AMES and his KGB spymasters had a problem. The CIA was hunting for a Soviet mole to account for its string of lost agents and there was a growing danger that Ames would be unearched.

Moscow hit on a solution straight out of John le Carré. They asked him for the name of a veteran CIA officer who could be framed by the KGB, through a series of bogus episodes and leaks, to look like the mole.

Ames added a dramatic touch of his own. He supplied the name of Jeanne Vertefeuille, the woman leading the mole hunt. Ames later admitted his betrayal to her after his arrest and confession. "You're not going to like this," he said, "but I gave them your name." There is no evidence that the KGB ever planted clues pointing to Ms Vertefeuille, but it laid false leads that could have incriminated other CIA agents.

The story of Ms Vertefeuille's narrow escape from suspicion is among the details to emerge in a trio

of new books about the Ames affair published in the United States. They disclose for the first time the names of ten KGB agents who worked for the CIA and were sold out by Ames. A counter-intelligence officer, Ames was the most damaging traitor in CIA history; he was sentenced to life imprisonment last year.

The ten worked in Moscow and other foreign capitals. They included a disarmament expert who divulged the Soviet negotiating position in advance and their assessment of American responses. Another KGB

turncoat warned the Americans that the Russians were using spy dust to trace the handling of secret documents by CIA agents in Moscow.

Six of the ten were executed, one escaped with CIA help, one defected, and two served six years for treason before receiving an amnesty from President Yeltsin. Three KGB agents previously identified were all executed by firing squad, including General Dimitri Polyakov, reckoned to be the most significant of all Ames's betrayals. Codenamed Top Hat, he supplied information for more than

20 years and rose to a senior position in Soviet army intelligence.

Yet for all the information provided about Soviet policy and strategic intentions, much of the spies' work had to do with the business of espionage itself. They were forever trying to recruit more double agents or to prevent Moscow from infiltrating its spies into the CIA and other allied intelligence services.

The three books are *Nightmover* by David Wise, *Killer Spy* by Peter Maas and *Betrayal* by three reporters with *The New York Times*.

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Republicans urge Gingrich not to run for president

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEWT GINGRICH yesterday completed a triumphant four-day tour of New Hampshire, site of February's key first presidential primary, but paradoxically the visit diminished his chances of making a White House bid. Most Republicans regard him as most effective in his role as House Speaker, much to his disappointment.

He dazzled the Granite State's Republicans at a whirlwind series of sell-out appearances, and enjoyed an acclaimed debate of remarkable civility with President Clinton that softened his image and eclipsed the Republicans' official presidential candidates.

Wherever he went, however, party activists begged him to remain Speaker and not to jeopardise his "revolution" by running for president. "It's the most flattering request not to run I've heard of," Mr Gingrich said. A Gallup poll showed 71 per cent of Republicans opposed his candidature. Mr Gingrich joked that

seeing his first mousetrap was the weekend's highlight, but it was Sunday night's debate with Mr Clinton, his old ideological foe, that captured the headlines. American newspapers recorded the event with amazement, labelling it a "political lovefest". Mr Gingrich called it a "magical one-time New Hampshire moment".

The two paunchy, grey-haired baby-boomers, respective winners of America's 1992 and 1994 elections, sat side by side at a pensioners' picnic in the old mill town of Claremont, joked, complimented each other and sought to minimise rather than exaggerate their differences on everything from healthcare and the minimum wage to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the United Nations. "It was good, wasn't it?" the President mouthed to the Speaker when it ended.

Such banter as there was came from Mr Clinton. The President complained that the media reported only extreme statements, adding: "The Speaker is really good at that."

He can break through like nobody I've seen." He joked that Robert Dole, the Senate leader crusading against Hollywood sex and violence, had denied him permission to read Mr Gingrich's steamy new novel *1945*.

Even the spin-doctors were in harmony with Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, and Tony Blankley, Mr Gingrich's spokesman, agreeing that there were no winners or losers.

In fact both won by responding to the public demand for cleaner, less partisan politics. Mr Clinton, embarking on the last campaign of a life spent running for office, was boosted by unexpected praise from Mr Gingrich, most noticeably for his controversial intervention in Haiti. The Speaker enjoyed equal billing with the President and, despite bashing him at every other stop, did much to soften his extreme and divisive image.

Earlier in the day, mousetrap-spotting in New Hampshire's



President Clinton and Newt Gingrich on surprisingly friendly terms during the debate in Claremont, New Hampshire

mountainous north, he had been denounced as "the most mean-spirited, vicious politician we've seen in a long time" by a fisherman he had sought to greet by the Androscoggin river. After the debate the

staunchly Democratic pensioners in the audience lauded him. "It was a surprise he blended so well with Clinton," said Beatrice Defiorer, a former nurse. "I think we need to give him a chance." The real

losers were the nine Republican candidates, including Mr Dole, the front-runner who spent the weekend campaigning unnoticed in Iowa. They were left looking like the B-team. The debate had no

moderator, few rules and was organised in just two days. Mr Blankley said the overwhelmingly positive public reaction could herald the end of the "ritualised, sterile, pointless presidential debates".

Uranium deal with Moscow unravels

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A COSTLY agreement allowing the United States to buy weapons-grade uranium from Russia in return for hard currency is in danger of being dropped, three years after it was praised for making the world a safer place.

The deal was to have allowed Moscow \$12 billion (£7.5 billion) in return for 500 tonnes of uranium, enough to build more than 30,000 atomic bombs, for America's nuclear power plants. Russia is threatening privately to reject the accord, lending weight to Republican calls for President Clinton to press Moscow over its plans to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

The Senate Energy Committee holds hearings on the uranium deal today and the issue will be high on the agenda for Al Gore, the American Vice-President, and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, when they meet this month in Moscow. The US Administration hopes that, by resolving the 1992 accord, Russia can be persuaded to reject overtures from Iran and other states.

O.J. court drama puts trial by jury under threat

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A YEAR after the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, the humbling O.J. Simpson murder trial has prompted urgent calls for reform of Californian criminal justice.

With a mistrial or hung jury the most likely outcome, the case has made a mockery of jury trials and has endangered fundamental civil liberties in the process, a prominent defence attorney told the *Los Angeles Times*.

"We will all look back on the O.J. Simpson trial as the beginning of the end of the criminal justice system as we've known it in California, and perhaps across the country," Gerald Chaleff said.

In a review of the trial's impact on the state's overburdened courts system, the newspaper, which has devoted at least two pages to Simpson news every day of testimony in the six-month trial, predicted demands for an end to jury trials in some cases and to the need for unanimity among jurors in others.

To obtain a hung jury, Mr Simpson's lawyers need to persuade only one juror to acquit him of the murders, to which he pleads innocent. And

one dissenting juror is easy to find in California, according to Ed Jagels, a district attorney pressing for non-unanimous verdicts. He gave a warning of what he calls the "flake factor".

"Put any 12 Californians in a room and you'll have one flake," Mr Jagels was quoted as saying. "These people have been finding their way on to juries in greater numbers." Hence the defence's more outlandish alternative scenarios, critics say — scenarios such as an elaborate police conspiracy to frame the former football hero, which have been offered in all seriousness despite a mountain of physical evidence that experts agree would long since have convicted a poorer defendant.

"If O.J. Simpson had been some other negro in Los Angeles accused of killing a white woman and a white guy, right now he'd be serving time or awaiting execution," said Stanley Crouch, an African-American writer. Mr Simpson's wealth and fame have not only turned his trial into a national obsession, they have also made it deeply untypical of the thousands of murder cases handled by America's courts each year. Most of them are over in days or weeks.

The case has eroded public confidence in the system as a whole, according to 81 per cent of lawyers polled by the *California Bar Journal*. As a result, when politicians respond to public anger over the Simpson case with proposals for legal reform, the wrong lessons will end up being drawn from the wrong trial.

"It has to be the kind of reform that reflects what is going on day in, day out in our courts, not just in the trial of the century," said Laurie Levenson, a law professor.



Simpson: outlandish defence scenarios

Helium find backs Big Bang theory

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ASTRONOMERS have discovered traces of helium formed when the universe began. The find, announced yesterday at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Pittsburgh, supports the Big Bang theory of the universe's origin. Dr Arthur Davidsen, of Johns Hopkins University, said.

The helium was found in a region of space more than nine billion light years from Earth, using the Astro-2 observatory carried into orbit by space shuttle. Dr Davidsen said: "One of the major predictions is that the universe after the Big Bang was filled with about 90 per cent hydrogen and 10 per cent helium. This gas filled all of space and was very, very hot."

The gas cooled, forming stars in which all the other elements, including those that formed the planets, were made. Astronomers assumed that the hydrogen and helium still existed, but finding them with ground-based instru-

ments had proved impossible. This was because the ionised atoms could not be seen by instruments looking through the Earth's atmosphere.

Dr Davidsen and colleagues designed a telescope operating in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum to search for helium, and flew it on the space shuttle *Endeavour*. The results show helium in amounts consistent with those predicted by the Big Bang theory. "It strongly supports the whole idea of the Big Bang," Dr Davidsen said.

The findings could also have implications for "missing mass" — roughly 90 per cent of the total mass of the universe which we cannot see. "The stars we see don't account for all of the matter we think was present as a result of the Big Bang," said Dr Davidsen. "The idea that a lot of it is still out there in space and hasn't condensed to form galaxies and stars is a popular idea."

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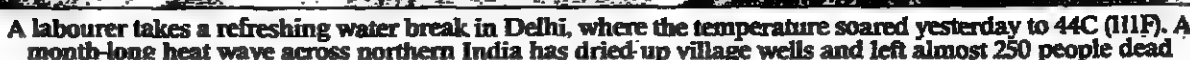


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By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Last month, a group of 27 former heads of government, including Lord Callaghan, wrote to the regime asking that Olusegun Obasanjo, the former ruler, be freed from house arrest as a sign of a commitment to democracy.



Lusaka: Kebby Musokotwane, Zambia's opposition leader, rejected calls to resign as party leader after taking a second wife. He said he came from a family where polygamy was traditional. (Reuters)

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حکومت اشدھل

Berlusconi demands election after TV triumph

Italian voters awarded Silvio Berlusconi a referendum triumph, but they may not want him back in power and fears of instability remain, John Phillips reports from Rome

A CALL for an autumn election was made by Silvio Berlusconi yesterday after Italians voted in a group of referendums to leave his media empire intact and to curb the monopoly power of the three biggest trade union federations.

The "no" vote on the proposal to limit private television ownership to one channel per person will probably hasten the life of the Government of Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister.

Signor Berlusconi again expressed his willingness to sell off a majority holding in his television empire, by the chairman of his Fininvest company, Fedele Confalonieri, said no decision on a sale would be taken for a few weeks.

"I had no doubt that Italians would reply with justice and wisdom to an attempt to expropriate and destroy a firm that put an end to the state monopoly on TV," the tycoon said. He repeated that Italy should "return to democratic normality through new elections by next autumn".

The result followed saturation advertising for a "no" vote on

Fininvest channels. It was a conservative vote, but not all conservatives were happy. The first fell on foreign exchange markets yesterday as traders predicted more instability if the able central banker, Signor Dini, quits Palazzo Chigi.

The problems were too complicated to be understood by the voters, said Franco Ferrarotti, a leading sociologist at Rome University.

The referendums gave a premium to those who oversimplified the issues.

The mainstream former Communists in the Democratic Party of the Left were mauled by the "yes" vote in three out of four referendums proposing to curtail the power of the big three national union federations — the CGIL, CISL and UIL. The votes ended automatic deduction of union subscriptions from wages by employers, gave private-sector workers greater choice in electing representatives, and abolished the Prime Minister's power to decide which unions can represent public-sector staff. A fourth vote on a proposal to give independent unions total free-

dom of organisation was beaten by a handful of votes.

Many employers fear, however, that the setback for the mainstream unions may lead to more strikes, as their leaders try to recover support from many members who are evidently disillusioned by the agreement on reform of the state pension system, which the federations signed in April with Signor Dini. "I hope that the unions will not try to restore their image by greater aggressiveness towards firms," said Alessandro Riello, chairman of the Young Industrialists' Association.

The proposals on trade union power that passed were sponsored by the hardline Marxist Communist Refoundation party and the militant independent left-wing union, Cobas. "The major unions were able to get pension reform through," Professor Ferrarotti said. "Now they will feel threatened because entrepreneurs will not be their bankers any more."

Officials of Signor Berlusconi's Fininvest holding company yesterday thanked housewives who voted to preserve their diet of American soap operas and sexy quiz shows on his Canale Cinque flagship channel. The referendum result is a boost to the billionaire's prestige after his Forza Italia party fared disappointingly in regional elections in March. Many of his friends in the umbrella Freedom Alliance

believe, however, that it would be a grave error to interpret the referendum, which only 58 per cent of the electorate voted in, as a desire to see Signor Berlusconi back in Palazzo Chigi. Gianfranco Fini, the "post-Fascist" National Alliance leader, has hinted that Signor Berlusconi should retain leadership of the Centre-Right but step aside to allow a newer face to be the conservative candidate for Prime Minister.

The referendum outcome only delays the time when parliament will have to deal with Signor Berlusconi's virtual monopoly, because a Constitutional Court ruling obliges the legislature to reorganise all broadcasting in the near future.

Muslim force prepares to fight for Sarajevo

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VISOKO AND STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

ABOUT 2000 troops, potentially the largest Bosnian government offensive force to have appeared anywhere during the three-year war, have assembled in the lines west of Sarajevo, facing the latest shadow of the United Nations' operation in former Yugoslavia.

The troops were amassing as UN officials conceded that their mission was at the mercy of Bosnia Serb forces who were blocking aid deliveries and holding peacekeepers hostage. "A lot of the shots are being called by the Bosnian Serbs right now," a UN spokesman said.

A resupply convoy for British peacekeepers in Gorazde is being refused permission to enter the "safe area" unless government troops are withdrawn from positions they captured recently. That fighting came after the abduction of 33 British troops from their observation posts along the front line more than two weeks ago. The Bosnian Serbs are still holding six British peacekeepers and 138 others.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the Bosnian Serbs had refused a pledge to allow them further visits to be hostages. The UN has little information about their whereabouts, although one officer is believed to be a "humanitarian" at a radar station outside Sarajevo, a UN spokesman said.

Yesterday, two British SAS armoured personnel carriers were also hit by small

arms fire while guarding the front gate of the UN compound in Gorazde, a UN spokesman said. The source of the attack was unknown.

The Muslim-led government's offensive force is gathering in UN sources, from the infantry and artillery units of four separate army corps. They have congregated on a north-south axis between Breza and Visoko and are apparently within days of launching an offensive towards the besieged capital.

Whether their intent is to relieve the city, whose empty food warehouses have again deepened the plight of Sarajevo's 400,000 population, or simply to seize high ground held by the Serbs around the western suburb of Ilijas, the fighting will take place within the UN's heavy weapons exclusion zone, already little more than a nominal concept in the wake of the Bosnian Serbs' seizure of hostages.

"This force has been building steadily over the last few weeks," said a Canadian UN officer in Visoko, who estimated

that there could be as many as 30,000 government troops in the zone. "But there have been a number of recent developments that make us think that the offensive is now imminent."

These include a Bosnian ultimatum to the Canadian soldiers manning observation posts overlooking the frontlines toward Sarajevo to leave immediately "for their own security". Two of the posts near Breza were shelled on Sunday evening and were subsequently abandoned, although it is unclear which side fired the shells. There are 11 Canadian soldiers being held by the Bosnian Serbs in Ilijas who may become the first UN hostages to be on the receiving end of a Bosnian offensive.

The government hospitals in Visoko and Zenica have had wards cleared to make way for military casualties. Civilians have been evacuated from frontline areas in anticipation of retaliatory Serb shelling and cafes and businesses have been closed.

"This is the eve of the greatest offensive of the war — the offensive to liberate Sarajevo," a Bosnian soldier from Zenica said. An intense security operation by Bosnian authorities has made it impossible to confirm what the soldier said.

Regardless of the outcome of the expected fighting, it will resurrect the vision of the UN standing impotently to one side as a battle is fought through an "exclusion zone" for a "safe haven".



Three girls running to safety yesterday as Bosnian Serb snipers target a Sarajevo street. The sign behind them warns residents that they are in a "dangerous zone"

US pilot gets a taste for hero's welcomes

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A WEEK after surviving on ants and grass in the forests of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Scott O'Grady landed on gazpacho, grilled lamb chops and cherry sorbet at the White House yesterday.

Captain O'Grady, shot down in his F16 by a Bosnian Serb SA6 missile over Banja Luka on June 2, was rescued by US Marines last week, and has returned to a seemingly endless run of hero's welcomes in the United States.

Yesterday, after a "private meeting" with President Clinton and his senior advisers, the pilot and his family were invited to have lunch with the President. He later appeared with Mr Clinton at the Pentagon.

Captain O'Grady, whose escapades in the mountainous terrain of Bosnia are being documented in the minutest detail, still awaits the vagaries of *People Magazine* and a celebrity interview with Barbara Walters.

His meeting with the President, however, must have been the high-point of the hero's welcome in Washington, which began as soon as he touched down at Andrews Air Force Base on Sunday, and will continue during a series of debriefings until the end of the week.

Captain O'Grady, who has consistently praised God, the Marines and his country for his rescue, had made every attempt to avoid the missile before his craft was hit. The SA6, however, with a speed of 2,100 mph, was about



O'Grady: arriving back in the United States

400 mph faster than an F16. Reports yesterday disclosed that the impact of the Bosnian Serb missile had slowed his plane to 300 mph, probably saving him from being killed when he ejected from the aircraft.

Kenin: A Kenyan peacekeeper was killed by Croatian Serb gunmen when he tried to stop the hijacking of a United Nations vehicle, officials said yesterday.

The incident occurred outside Knin, the "capital" of the rebel Serb enclave of Krajina in Croatia. UN officials said they were told by Krajina Serb authorities that three suspects were arrested but the stolen van had not been found. The Krajina Serbs denounced the ambush.

Hundreds of UN peacekeepers' vehicles worth millions of dollars have been stolen in Croatia and Bosnia since 1992. (Reuters)

Dismay grips main French parties over Right's local election success

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

DISMAY beset France's big political parties yesterday after the extreme right-wing National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen merged as the main winner in the first round of municipal council elections.

The high score of the National Front's candidates, who achieved more than 25 per cent of the vote in some towns on the Mediterranean coast and in the industrial east, was seen as proof that M Le Pen's party, which preaches a racist creed, has sunk roots at local level. Until now, the party had done well only as a protest vote in national elections.

In the most spectacular result, Bruno Mégret, M Le Pen's deputy, came top with 43 per cent of the vote in Vitrolles, a big industrial suburb of Marseilles. In Nice, a hard right-wing candidate who is close to M Le Pen, but no longer a party member, also came top and could win

the city in next Sunday's second round, when the National Front could swing the balance in up to 100 big towns.

"The Front long dreamt of being in the position of king-maker. The dream is now a reality," lamented the pro-Gaullist *Le Figaro*.

The extreme Right owed its score to deft exploitation of fears of crime and immigration in depressed urban zones, including the outskirts of Paris, and frontier areas. *Le Monde* said that M Chirac's failure so far to set out clear policies had amplified disenchantment with the political classes.

While M Le Pen basked in his triumph yesterday, the disappointment was strongest in the Gaullist and centre-right camps because of their failure to register a "Chirac effect" after the presidential election last month. In Bordeaux, for example, Alain

Juppé, the Prime Minister, only squeaked into the Mayor's office with just over 50.3 per cent.

The Socialist Party salvaged comfort from its defence of a string of seats that had been threatened by the conservative parties which hold the presi-

dency and dominate parliament. Among these only Marseilles appears likely to fall to the Right. The party, which returned from the electoral grave with the strong showing of Lionel Jospin in the presidential campaign, is on the verge of taking two of the 20 arrondissements in Paris, a Gaullist stronghold since M Chirac became Mayor in 1977.

One of the more unexpected features of the voting was the relative success of mayors caught up in corruption scandals. In Cannes, Michel Mouillot, a conservative who has been given a suspended prison sentence for corruption, scored a strong lead over Pierre Lellouche, the Gaullist adviser to M Chirac.

In Lyons, support for Michel Noir, the scandal-plagued outgoing Mayor, matched that for Raymond Barre, a fellow conservative and former Prime Minister.



Le Pen: making inroads with his racist creed

Gondoliers driven by waves to fit motors

Venice gondoliers are planning to put their oars and switch to motor power to combat increasingly heavy swells in the famed Lagoon.

"The swell means we can't use our oars any more, so four gondolas will have motors fitted to their sterns," said Fulvio Carpa, head of a Venetian gondoliers' association. "We cannot carry on like this. We have been forced to become taxi drivers and

turn the gondola into a mere motor boat."

Outboard motors will be fitted to four heavy-duty gondolas initially, but the city's 400 gondoliers may modify the rest of the fleet if nothing is done about the choppy waters. New shipping channels mean waves break closer to the city, while pollution has killed off Lagoon plant life, speeding its transformation into a bay. (Reuters)

Baltics' deal with EU risks upsetting Russia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ESTONIA, Lithuania and Latvia, the former Soviet Baltic states, came a step nearer to joining the European Union yesterday when their leaders signed an historic agreement with EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg. The deal offers trade and co-operation and the eventual prospect of joining the EU but it is likely to cause unease in Moscow.

After the signing, Maris Gailis, the Latvian Prime Minister, said: "The Baltic countries have come back into Europe."

Although the three states join a long list of former Eastern bloc nations seeking EU membership, they are well placed for entry. The three, and Estonia in particular, have made the greatest strides of all the former Soviet republics in reforming their economies and strengthening their economic, social and cultural ties to the West.

In economic terms the ex-

tension of EU membership to the three has become feasible since Finland and Sweden, their Baltic neighbours, became members at the beginning of the year.

Politically, however, the three states know that the move could lead to a potentially explosive showdown with Russia. "We hope to be able to join [the EU] this century," said Adolfs Slezcivskis, the Estonian Prime Minister, adding that his country did not intend to upset Moscow. The agreement, he said, "is with Europe, not against Russia."

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Caroline Beale goes on trial for the murder of her baby tomorrow

Childbirth's mental toll

Mark Jackson
examines
society's cruel
treatment of
infanticide down
the centuries

Tomorrow Caroline Beale, a young, unmarried Englishwoman, will stand trial in New York charged with murdering her newborn child. If convicted of murder, she faces the prospect of long-term imprisonment.

The outcome of Caroline Beale's trial will depend upon the court's ability to resolve key disputes about the evidence. According to the prosecution, the fact that she concealed her pregnancy, gave birth alone, and subsequently endeavoured to smother the child's dead body out of America suggests that she wilfully killed the child at birth. This assertion will be supported by medical evidence apparently demonstrating that the child was probably born alive.

Caroline Beale's defence rests on her insistence that the child was stillborn, and on psychiatric evidence that she was clinically depressed during her pregnancy and mentally disturbed at the moment of birth. The defence will argue that even if Caroline did cause her child's death and attempt to conceal the evidence, she should not be held criminally responsible because she was suffering from some form of mental illness.

Cases such as Caroline Beale's are not new. In the 17th and 18th centuries many unmarried women who gave birth in secret and whose children were later found dead were accused of murdering those children at birth. Significantly, debates in the courts and discussions of the crime in the legal and medical press in that period focused on much the same issues as those raised by the trial of Caroline Beale, notably the evidential weight of concealment and the mother's state of mind.

A typical case is that of Unity Hudson who, in 1768,



Caroline Beale was caught smuggling her dead baby out of America. In the 17th and 18th centuries such concealment was considered evidence of guilt

was suspected of murdering her newborn child in Pickering in Yorkshire. Like Caroline Beale, Unity insisted that she had given birth alone to a stillborn child which she had subsequently hidden. Unity's neighbours, suspicious of her efforts to conceal her circumstances, remained unconvinced by her account. When a

local surgeon testified that the child had probably been born alive, the inquest jury returned a verdict of murder and Unity was sent to trial.

The letter of the law was against her. According to a law passed in 1624, any woman who concealed the death of an illegitimate newborn child was presumed to

have murdered it unless she could prove that the child had been stillborn. By the 18th century, however, the assumption that concealment signified murder was being vigorously challenged, most convincingly by William Hunter, a prominent surgeon and physician. In addition to criticising the use of medical evidence to

prove live birth, Hunter was adamant that concealment could not "amount to more than a ground of suspicion", since even innocent women might choose to conceal their condition.

Significantly, Hunter also urged judges and juries to consider the suspect's state of mind. The physical and mental distress associated with labour, he argued, could deprive women "of all judgment and rational conduct. They are delivered by themselves, wherever they happen to retire in their fright and confusion... being quite exhausted they faint away, and become insensible of what is passing; and when they recover a little strength, find that the child, whether stillborn or not, is completely lifeless." Disturbances of mind, Hunter suggested, might explain why some women chose, apparently irrationally, to conceal the child's dead body.

Such arguments found increasing favour in the English courts. Changes in the law in the 19th century reduced the importance of concealment as evidence of murder. At the same time, the insanity defence became more successful. In response to changing constructions of the crime and in deference to blossoming psychiatric evidence on mental disturbances after birth, the Infanticide Acts of 1922 and 1938 directed that any woman

duce many critical elements of 18th-century trials for this offence, not least the often controversial profile of medical evidence. Whether or not those involved in the forthcoming trial adopt the approach shown by their forebears remains to be seen.

In the 18th century, when conviction for this and many other crimes carried a capital sentence, doubts about the certainty of medical evidence, recognition of the severe mental and physical pressures experienced by women during pregnancy and labour, and a belief that women accused of this crime had generally suffered enough, encouraged most juries to acquit women like Caroline Beale.

Dr Mark Jackson is research fellow at the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Manchester

The cancer drug that prolongs life

Dr Thomas Stuttford considers the advantages of tamoxifen for breast cancer patients

At a party a few years ago I met a former colleague's widow, by then middle-aged and presumably menopausal, who had recently developed an early cancer of the breast and had had a mastectomy.

She discussed her disease in a very interested but apparently totally unemotional way and told me that her surgeon, a general surgeon rather than a specialist in breast cancer, had felt that her prognosis was so good that he had decided against prescribing tamoxifen. She died last year.

Nobody can know whether the outcome would have been any different if she had taken tamoxifen, and it is impossible to draw general conclusions from a single case, but statistics show that tamoxifen prolongs survival time and reduces the incidence of recurrence and death. There is a 25 per cent reduction in the annual rate of recurrence, and a 17 per cent reduction in the annual mortality, in those patients who have been given the drug at a stage when the tumour has not spread beyond the breast or nearby lymph glands. Tamoxifen is also useful in treating hormone-dependent advanced disease.

The value of tamoxifen in the treatment of early cancer of the breast, when the patient is not also receiving chemotherapy, is now acknowledged, and its side-effects are accepted as a reasonable price to pay for improved prognosis.

It is agreed that tamoxifen, an oestrogen antagonist, can cause some unwelcome symptoms, many of them akin to those of the menopause — hot flushes, a dry vagina and itchy vulva, rashes and night sweats, and emotional upsets. These symptoms could be classified as inconvenient rather than life-threatening, but the amount of this inconvenience has to be balanced by the patient as well as the doctor, against potential advantages of treatment. Tamoxifen can very occasionally cause other troubles which are a threat to general health, and possibly even dangerous.

Damage to vision, either from cataracts or retinal dis-

ease, has been recorded after very high doses. Very rarely changes have been reported in the white blood cell count, or in the number of circulating platelets, the small particles involved in the blood-clotting mechanism. Finally tamoxifen is associated with significant increase in what is unfortunately a comparatively rare cancer, cancer of the lining of the uterus.

The increased rate of cancer of the liver in its given tamoxifen has not been found in human beings, although usually clinically important changes in liver function have been noted. Evidence from Scandinavia that tamoxifen is linked to cancer of the stomach and colon has not been confirmed.

By 1981 the advantages of tamoxifen had become so apparent that it was not surprising that oncologists should consider its use as a means of preventing the occurrence of cancer, rather than as a means of keeping an existing cancer at bay. Dr Trevor Powe, of the Royal Marsden Hospital, which leads the international field in this research, said that for a pilot study the hospital had selected 2,500 women who, because of their family history, had a fourfold increased risk of developing cancer of the breast.

In a double blind trial in which the women were given either tamoxifen or a placebo (an inert tablet), around 20 per cent of those taking tamoxifen dropped out for one reason or another. But statistics show that only 5 per cent of those who had not complied with the results of the trial. There have been three cases among the 2,500 patients of cancer of the lining of the uterus, two in those taking tamoxifen, one in those taking placebo. There are now three other, larger trials under way, in London, Italy and America. It is hoped that these trials will provide the statistics which will allow patients to take up their own minds as to whether the risk of side-effect, which have caused some people concern, is justified by the reduction in the risk of developing breast cancer.



Very high doses can damage vision

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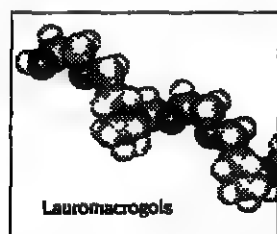
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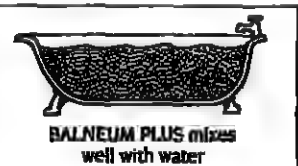


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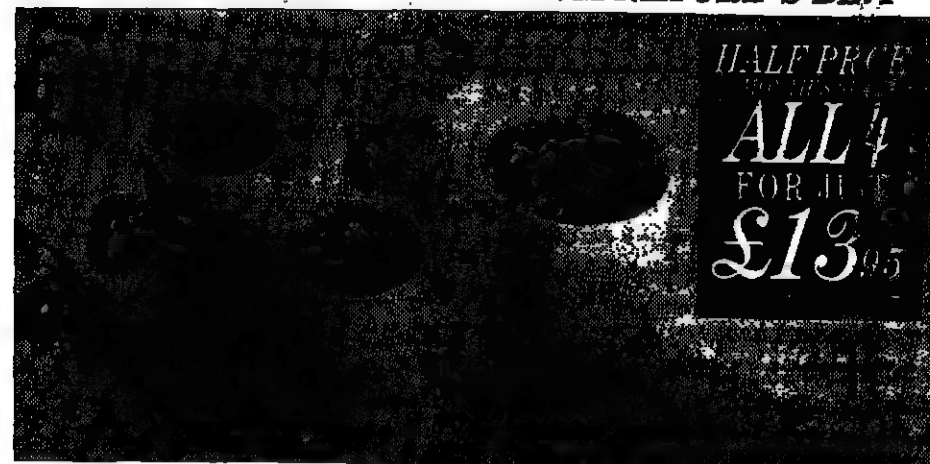
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Vice girls who struggle with aggressive third-generation Asian vigilantes

Kerbcrawling in ITV's *Band of Gold*: critics say that the popular series led to an explosion of trade in the red-light district and provoked a violent fundamentalist backlash

The battle for the streets of Bradford

Anxious prostitutes talk to Anne McElvoy about their fears after becoming the targets of the weekend riots

Carol and Mel pull their cheap leather jackets tight across their skimpy dresses to ward off chill winds blowing from the Yorkshire moors and hop impatiently from foot to stilettoed foot as they wait for the first light of day in Bradford's red-light district.

Likewise everyone else in the shunned, half-derelict streets in the Manningham district of the city, hit by the worst outbreak of rioting in the city's history at the weekend, they are analysing the roots of the violence which has shaken the community.

"Both the Asians and the

police deserve this," says Carol. "They pushed us off our turf because the Pakistani gangs said we were making the area unsafe and the Vice [Squad] went along with it. But we didn't burn down petrol stations or throw bricks at people, did we?"

The two women, both in their late teens and "on the game" since they were 14 and 15 respectively, worked the infamous Lumb Lane until two months ago. The ribbon of road was dominated by pimps and prostitutes of all ages. It was here that coachloads of Japanese tourists would come cruising in the summer

months, that visiting businessmen knew where to find every sort of sexual gratification and that the Yorkshire Ripper once trawled for victims.

For some time the vice industry and the preponderance of Asian families had been living in increasingly uneasy proximity. Recently, however, an open turf war has broken out. Following the successful experiment in Birmingham's Balsall Heath, local vigilante groups of young Asian males have swept through Lumb Lane in the evenings, driving prostitutes away from the Lane and into derelict industrial roads further down the hill.

The one thing on which police, prostitutes and local people can agree is that the already troubled atmosphere in Manningham was exacerbated by ITV's *Band of Gold* series, the acclaimed drama starring Cathy Tyson which was filmed in Bradford's red-light district and based on the travails of the vice girls there.

"We might have been able to sort out the problems that were bubbling underneath if it hadn't been for that," says Ali Iqbal, a local shopkeeper. "But it acted as a free advert for the sex trade, drawing kerb-crawlers and voyeurs to the area. It was the worst thing of all for

us because it glamorised vice." He is dismayed that a second series, written by Lynda La Plante, is planned.

At the middle school on Lumb Lane, Maureen Willis, the deputy headmistress, spent yesterday cautiously explaining events to the children. "They are caught in the middle of all this," she says. "We have to get on with the business of running a normal school here but we have no choice but to warn them about what happens outside."

Before the vigilantes moved in, children often found used condoms and heroin needles in the school yard. "It is a great

relief to me that the patrol groups are there," says Ali Khan, collecting his four-year-old daughter Nadia from the primary school next door. "The police couldn't protect my kids from seeing half-dressed women on the way home and hearing their foul language and fights outside the school gates. So all power to the vigilantes, I say."

West Yorkshire Police are keen to talk down the influence of the anti-prostitute gangs, sensing perhaps that good relations with the vigilantes may be the key to regaining the Asian community's trust. "We are fully sympathetic to the notion that vice should be kept away from residential streets," says their press officer, Simon Rigg. "But civil actions must be kept within the law. Otherwise there would be anarchy out there."

On the wastes of City Road, where Carol and Mel were resigned last night to plying their trade between the petrol garages and mini-car firms, the mood among the guardians of the sex industry was bleak and vengeful. "We won't be here for ever," said a man guarding a car in which four prostitutes were waiting for customers. "One day soon we'll take Lumb Lane back. This isn't the end of the story."



Angry Asians blame police for ignoring the vice trade

Adjusting sin to suit society

God-fearing rugby players could convert more than a try

As a fervent unbeliever I have to admit to being disappointed to learn that Jonah Lomu is a devout, God-fearing (or God-loving, as the modern pieties have it) Christian. All brilliant sportsmen should have something of the exquisite savage about them, but this moving statue of a man is a beautiful pagan god himself. A fiercely devout, burning faith would seem entirely fitting, but from what I remember from the Christian Union at school, a flaccid, suburban, have-a-good-day-now chirpiness is more the style of the contemporary Christian.

Still, if Jonah Lomu can convert me to rugby, then I'd say there's potential. Instead of arranging black Masses in order to appeal to pagan ritualists, our desperate clergy would be better off recruiting Lomu as the ultimate modern missionary. Of course, it would be rather silly. But then the Church doesn't seem capable of doing anything sensible at the moment. It's panic-struck, and so it should be, but those in the Church must stop deluding themselves over what the problem is. We laugh scornfully when, after some particularly devastating blow to the Government, an embarrassing by-election result or derisive opinion-poll finding, a spokesman is wheeled out to deliver the time-honoured words: "We just didn't get our message across." We sneer because we know that the message had indeed been got across. It just hadn't been liked.

The Church is similarly now insisting that it's all just a matter of words. Philosophers would agree that everything is indeed a matter of words, but this is hardly the point. Faith has to be considered apart from the language used to convey it. The reason people don't go to church is not because they feel the language used therein is irrelevant and alienating, but because they don't believe in what is being said. They get the message all right, they just don't like what they hear.

Deep down those flustered churchmen must know this. Nothing else could explain their panicked reactions. This insistence that it's only the words that are problematic, and that they are mutable, does not begin to address the

real gulf between preachers and people. In a way, the decision not to talk any more of cohabiting couples as living in sin does go deeper than merely words. But go any deeper and you drown.

I do not think that people who live together are living in sin. I do not, anyway, believe in sin. (I believe distinctly in right and wrong although that's a different matter.) But I don't expect a bishop to take my line. If only because the Church which he serves is predicated on such beliefs. If the tenets of faith offend people, trying to find ways to lessen the offence can only be a temporary measure, and a doomed one. Surely the logical outcome of doing away with the barriers to churchgoing is to do away with the Church.

The reason why people don't go to church is because we are living in a godless age. Try to please them, and all we end up with are godless institutions. In order to combat this age of unbelief, the various churchmen have, over the years, organised themselves into a cartel in the form of a mind-your-backs-scumscumism, which is as intellectually dishonest as reducing the Anglican Church to an ecclesiastical pick-n-mix counter.

None of this should bother a nice, self-respecting heathen like me, except that even the wishy-washiest Protestantism — complete with smirking bishops and tumbourines — is preferable to the alternative which isn't, alas, robust and morally sound atheism, but flourishing, wild-eyed evangelical fundamentalism.

Dark side

DAVID GILMOUR, he of Pink Floyd, who earned £10 million last year, has admitted to waking up at night drenched in worry about the amount of money he's got. "Obscene," he calls it.

Perhaps people whose outpourings net them this kind of income are not used to the idea that all their utterances are not valuable commodities. On the whole, I feel it would have been better if he hadn't chosen to share his financial worries with us. "I should have such money troubles," is the only sane response. Openly complaining of the stress of all those riches is an invitation to a ragging. Who was saying what about "obsene"?



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"That series was a free advert for voyeurs"

they have been slapped and pushed off the streets by the gangs. Other women speak of pimps being set upon and bloody beaten in doorways. "Before all this we got along fine with the police," says Carol. "They knew who we were and we knew them. We could help them if a girl got hurt or attacked by a punter and they would warn us if there was somebody around who might have been a danger to us."

Now they claim that dispersal by the vigilante groups has simply spread the prostitution over a wider area, destroying the "safety net" of familiar territory. The body of 18-year-old Maureen Stepan, a working prostitute, was found last week in a house some distance away from her old Lumb Lane base. She had been strangled.

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Rioting for stricter law enforcement

Ray Honeyford on Muslim outrage at decadence in Bradford

What are we to make of the Muslim riot in Bradford? Something is going on when we see on our television screens Muslim youths hurling petrol bombs, bricks and stones and setting fire to cars.

The puzzle lies in the fact that such riotous behaviour is coming from sections of the community which have a generally deserved reputation for preserving the peace, respecting their neighbours' persons and property, supporting the family and insisting upon virtuous behaviour from their young. Despite the Rushdie affair, when a minority of British Muslims did engage in riotous behaviour and book-burning, Muslims hardly feature in crime statistics. There are very few Muslims in British jails. So why this unprecedented mayhem on the streets of Bradford?

The location is of great significance. Manningham — where I was for six years a headmaster — is an inner-city area noted for three things: prostitution, drugs and a huge Muslim population. It is also the place where the Yorkshire Ripper claimed at least one of his victims.

Prostitution and drugs appear to have nothing to do with the Muslim citizens. My experience tells me that the pimps and drug-runners are overwhelmingly of West Indian origin.

Imagine the offence caused by soliciting outside

Western and Muslim youths do, however, clash about sex, particularly in its prostituted form. Muslims have a very strict view of matters to do with sex. A recent pronouncement from the Imam of Britain's biggest and most influential mosque, in Regent's Park, makes this clear.

Mohammed El-Sharkawy has publicly condemned any sexual relations outside marriage. Not even kissing, holding hands or embracing is allowed before an engagement is publicly announced. So imagine the effect of whoredom right outside the homes of those who hold such rigid yet exemplary moral values.

When mini-skirted girls are brazenly displaying their wares yards from the mosque where Muslims conduct the most solemn acts of worship, the offence given can scarcely be exaggerated. Just how are Muslim parents — trying to instil incorruptible values in their children (and particularly concerned about their daughters' moral welfare) — expected to cope when such things are, apparently, permitted?

It is important to remember that although the act of prostitution is legal, soliciting is not. Yet everyone knows that soliciting is a regular feature of life on the pavements of Manningham, and has been for a long time. I well remember, about ten years ago, a Muslim governor of my school complaining bitterly about the prevailing prostitution. He was outraged not only by the obvious moral delinquency, but because the prospect of readily available sex compounded the difficulty of strict

sexual self-denial which Muslims practise during Ramadan, the Muslim Lent.

If the laws of the community fail to support the attempt to live a highly principled life, for how long is the individual expected to hold out? A feeling of Muslim virtue being progressively undermined, and a sense of helplessness in the face of encroaching evil are, I suspect, major factors in the present troubles.

The indignation is all the more insupportable because the key movers in this moral drama are prostituted women. In the Muslim world — and despite the denials of Westernised Muslim intellectuals, and the surprisingly liberal views of the Koran — women, although powerful in the home, are expected to know their place. The behaviour of the prostitutes might well merit the death penalty in some Muslim countries, and is bound to generate an intense anger.

To make matters worse, there is here an inherent conflict regarding the nature of authority. If soliciting and drug trafficking are unlawful, Muslim elders quite reasonably ask, why does the State not use its powers to stamp them out?

The law in Islam is sacrosanct, and everyone obeys it. In the Islamic world, wrongdoers get very short shrift, and punishment is swift and condign. Compare that with the position of the police here. How do you explain to a Muslim that our police have to contend not only with mountainous bureaucracy, but with rules of evidence which often favour the criminal, endless court procedures which involve lawyers engaging in silly verbal games, and the business of proving the charge beyond all reasonable doubt?

As far as drugs are concerned, the police are also aware that any move against Afro-Caribbeans is likely to provoke a cry of "racism" from the vigilantes of the race relations lobby. To a devout Muslim, for the State to shackle its own officers of the law in this way is crazy.

It may be that Muslim youths are turning to a more orthodox version of the faith — a version which offers certainty of belief and strict moral guidelines to guard against the prevailing Western corruption, but which also tends to engender a passionate aggression.

None of this excuses what is happening. We must show that mob violence does not pay. The miscreants must be dealt with like any other group of delinquents. Neither their religion nor their ethnic origin should be counted as relevant. Nor must the inevitable talk of police over-reaction from the race relations lobby and so-called community leaders deter the police. But perhaps those in authority should try harder to rid the streets of Manningham of the provocation which exists there. Not to do so might escalate current troubles, and present a serious threat to race relations.



A fight on the tiles

Scrabbling around in court is no way to resolve a dispute over a mere game

Oh, but there's oodles and oodles more to be said about the Great Scrabble War! For one thing, I can get in any number of rude words until the readers start complaining, ROT THEM.

I cannot believe that anyone has missed the story entirely, but just in case (after all, the *Financial Times* didn't print a word about it, STUCKUP TWITS), I shall give an outline.

There was a Scrabble tournament going on in Folkestone, which you would surely think a place calm enough to ensure that there would be no shenanigans, whereas this time there were more shenanigans than you could count, and indeed all but fistfights. (Incidentally, if you see me spelling Scrabble with a small 's', for heaven's sake tug me by the sleeve and whisper — the people who own the copyright on Scrabble get very shy if it isn't in upper case. Mind you, that's nothing compared to the Weight-Watchers — use the wrong kind of double-you for them and all hell will break out, SILLY SOBS.)

But did you know about all this Scrabble stuff that has poured out through the lawsuit? For starters, who knew that there was a PONY THING called "The Association of Premier Scrabble Players"? I certainly didn't. And what about this man — plainly a great expert in the game — who "has been banned from association tournaments... erstwhile friends and competitors... lined up to denounce him, many weeping angrily..." What has he done to deserve all this?

What is going on here? I can't have played Scrabble at school, because it was invented in 1960 and sadly I'm not young enough, though if it had existed when I was at school I would have played it day and night, solely because the alternative would have been Fives, undoubtedly the most boring game in all history.

As far as I can see, it is impossible to cheat at Scrabble, but I do my best; I put down words like SPONG (a very rare butterfly), KWUNTLE (to slide down the banisters backwards whilst all the time) and PLIPSEMUNT (a broken knitting-needle eleven inches long, and usually, though not always, coloured blue), and when I am challenged (I insist before we start that we should not use dictionaries), I go on shouting everybody down until all the other players wearily give in.

Then there is the bit about the players going to do WEE-WEE. I'm not quite clear about this, though it seems it is the pivot of the tragedy. It is, I understand, a rule that any competitor is allowed to leave the board to relieve himself after three-and-a-half gruelling hours Scrabbling, but that there is a cut-off time after which he loses his turn. Perhaps the organisers are afraid that if the players stay away too long it must mean that they are frantically consulting contraband dictionaries hidden in their KNICKERS.

As you all must know by now, I have longed to see a judge hang himself with his braises in his court; the case of Goldman v The Association of Premier Scrabble Players must have come very close indeed to my dream. And I ask again, for the thousandth time, when shall we see a judge who, confronted with a case both ludicrous and worthless, will rise from the bench and say "Take this rubbish out of my court before I throw you out, or, in the vernacular, BUGGER OFF!"

To his great credit, Judge Hallgarten got reasonably close to the ideal, saying "I have to say I am deeply sorry that this case, attended by 46 pages of pleadings, 51 of witness statements and over 200 pages of documentation, ever came to court." But only when the RASPBERRIES had finished sounding did I discover that the case had been four and a half years in the making.

Did you do me the honour of reading my column headed "When Obstinacy is Idiocy"? But what is the difference, apart from the fact that Mr Martin Fitzgerald has nurtured his grudge for 30 years and Mr Michael Goldman has nurtured his for four and a half? (Give him time, readers, give him time.)

When did you last read *The Inimitable Jeeves*? In that, you will find a short story from the Master, called "The Great Sermon Handicap". The idea was to time all the Sunday sermons in the vicinity, and give them, as the title makes clear,

odds for each sermon/horse. The twist comes when the favourite accidentally loses several pages of his intended sermon; he gets over that problem easily, but his sermon is much shorter than usual, which leads the punters astray, and upsets the betting, of course to the benefit of Bertie and his co-conspirator. And why did I immediately think of "The Great Sermon Handicap" when I read the Great Scrabble Handicap? Just put the emphasis on Handicap and you will understand. In any case, it is time for you and me to

grit our teeth, because even if you don't know what is coming, I do — oh, I do, I do. Hear Mr Goldman: It was my right to bring this action. You can't value everything in terms of money. It has been worthwhile because I was acting to establish a principle.

Now hear the Association: ... it was my right to defend ourselves, given the implications for amateur tournaments, for any pastime and not just Scrabble. We are surprised and disappointed... It was my right. It was felt essential. It has been worthwhile. It has always been the APS's view that this action is totally out of proportion.

I would sing it to them if they would only listen, but they won't. They wouldn't listen if a choir of heavenly angels were especially sent down to Earth from Almighty God to tell them to kiss and make up. And why not? Listen to one of the Scrabblers, saying "I will never have him in my house again. I'm moved to tears because an injustice has been done." And listen to another of the Scrabblers, saying "I know many of us won't be playing him again. I have been refusing to play with him since this started."

And what are we talking about? Has murder been done? Arson? Kidnapping? Stabbing? Robbery? Libel? (Oh, God, spare me that one — it will be worse than all of the others put together.) Try to hold in your mind that these people —

all of them — are sentient beings, including even the lawyers. What conclusion do you come to? I can guess the judge's answer easily, but judges are not allowed to use bad language in public: what about the rest of us?

What indeed? Leave out the thousands of pounds that are going down the lawyers' gullets; they were hired to do a job, and they did it. (What they say, doubled up with mirth, when they get home, is another matter.) What about the other thousands of pounds that are now going to be argued about? Don't ask me.

Oh, we can all speak about the waste of time and energy, we can all point the finger (knowing that we, too, have had it pointed at us, and with good reason), we can all insist on a change of our legal system, we can all despise practically everybody involved in this sorry business, but in our hearts, we tremble at the thought that we, too, could make such fools of ourselves, given the right circumstances.

The Association of Premier Scrabble Players exists, but it gives itself no airs, apart from its ridiculous title. What it needs is someone full-time who would repeat, over and over again, "It's only Scrabble, you know." Come to think of it, they could cut down on the overheads by training a parrot to do the job.

I wonder whether Martin Fitzgerald reads the newspapers. If he does, the Scrabble nonsense might be the best thing he could do to help himself out of his gloom. We all make fools of ourselves, and we all need someone to stick a pin in us. Perhaps both Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Goldman could get together, and wouldn't it be marvellous if they were to be found roaring with laughter?

I aim too high, I fear. Ninety pounds damages did that wise judge give the plaintiff; even if the judge may not use swearwords, the sum spoke more loudly than any condescension. I hover between laughter and tears, and I rather think that most people studying this business would come to the same conclusion.

There remain those who cannot see what fools they have made of themselves. Perhaps, after all, we shouldn't use a parrot to tell those who teeter on the edge of folly, but a human being. He could march up and down like a sandwich-board man. And his watchword — to show that none of this really matters — would be OH PIDDLING.

Ministers must be checked

Anthony Lester on how Parliament is being ignored

This afternoon, the House of Lords will scrutinise the Disability Discrimination Bill in committee. The eminent Conservative lawyer Lord Renton, QC, will move an amendment of constitutional importance. It is part of the age-old debate about who really makes the law of the land, Parliament or ministers of the Crown. Lord Renton's amendment seeks to remedy an extreme example of what Lord Chief Justice Lord Hewart, writing in 1929, famously called "the new despotism": the excessive delegation of law-making powers to ministers.

In a nutshell, the Government's Bill makes it unlawful to discriminate against disabled people in employment or the provision of goods, facilities and services. It creates important new rights for the disabled, and imposes corresponding duties on employers and others. The rights are enjoyed only by those who are disabled within the meaning of the Bill. To be disabled, the individual must have a physical or mental impairment which has a "substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities". The courts and industrial tribunals will have to decide whether claimants satisfy this substantial adverse effect test when they are for unlawful disability discrimination.

It is what the Bill then seeks to do that is constitutionally objectionable. Clause 2 empowers the Secretary of State to issue what the Bill describes as "guidance" about matters which must be taken into account in determining whether the adverse effects test is or is not satisfied. The guidance may "arouse other things" (the "other things" being unspecified) give examples of effects which may or may not reasonably be regarded as "substantial adverse effects". Unlike government circulars, the guidance is not purely administrative in nature. Clause 2 commands the courts and tribunals to take the guidance into account for the purpose of determining legal liability.

Where it operates, this "guidance" will therefore determine whether individuals have legally enforceable rights or duties, and whether particular conduct is or is not contrary to the law of the land. In substance, if not in form, the guidance will be an instrument of a legislative character. But under the Bill as it stands, the guidance will be issued by the minister without being approved by Parliament. The only safeguards in the Bill are that the minister must consult "such persons as he considers appropriate" before issuing his guidance, and that he must lay a copy before each House of Parliament.

By describing as guidance what is in substance legislation, the Government avoids the need to put these legally binding rules into a statutory instrument requiring parliamentary approval. If Parliament were to permit this device, it would mean that, where guidance is given, Parliament would have no supervisory role over the minister's decisions as to what is or is not unlawful.

Now is that all. Later clauses confer wide powers on ministers to make regulations about the circumstances in which employers and others will or will not be liable for breaches of statutory duties. The regulations may seriously erode the rights of the disabled, or they may impose new duties on employers and others towards the disabled. These regulations are not required to be approved by Parliament by affirmative resolution. They are to be subject only to negative procedure: that is, they become law unless annulled by either House within 40 days of being laid.

It was not ever thus. The Highway Code can have legal consequences. So, for many decades, Parliament has required that the code and any amendments be approved by affirmative procedure.

Twenty years ago, when I was Roy Jenkins's special adviser at the Home Office, helping to shape the sex and race discrimination Bills, we were rightly advised by my fellow civil servants that it would be unconstitutional for the Government to seek delegated powers to amend the definition of unlawful discrimination, except by means of the affirmative procedure. That is why the key definitions in those Acts can be amended only with the positive approval of each House. I am not aware that constitutional conventions have been eroded in this respect in the past two decades, nor that civil servants have become pusillanimous in advising ministers. What was constitutionally improper in 1975 should not pass now.

This issue was completely ignored when the Bill went through the Commons. So the Upper House must now perform its crucial role as a revising chamber, as it has done so often with conspicuous success. Given his great authority on the preparation of legislation, Lord Renton is well placed to persuade the House that the guidance should be turned into legislation with proper parliamentary control. Let us hope that he succeeds, in the interests of democratic government under the rule of law.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, is a Liberal Democrat.

Hair-raising

THE TWITTERING under some of the most exclusive hairdressers in London is more than unusually excitable. Nicky Clarke — hairdresser to the Duchess of York, Elizabeth Hurley, Hugh Grant and, on occasion, the Princess of Wales — has been mugged.

The incident occurred in front of Clarke's wife and children outside

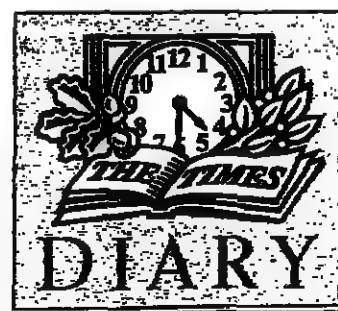


Clarke: new sympathy

their London home in St John's Wood in broad daylight on Friday evening as they returned from a restaurant. It was chillingly reminiscent of the doorstep mugging of Lady Mishcon, the wife of the Princess of Wales's lawyer, Lord Mishcon, who was attacked in the lobby of her home.

Clarke's wife, Lesley, was entering the house with the couple's nine-year-old son Harrison and daughter Tellia, 6, as Nicky locked the car, when he was accosted by a youth. "This guy said something and I immediately started to move out of his way," says Clarke. "But before I knew what was happening, two others were there and I was grabbed by the throat from behind. They pinned my arms and went for my wrist."

The hoodlums made off with the £12,000 Cartier watch Clarke had recently bought. He tried to chase them in his car, but they got away. Clarke, who charges clients up to £200 for a consultation, is not a soft target for criminals. "About a year ago I saw a bloke breaking into my car, gave chase and took him to the police station. But this is the first time anything like this has hap-



pened to me even though I've lived in New York. I will certainly be considerably more sympathetic now when clients tell me about their ordeals."

Handy man

AS EDWARD WINDSOR, alias Prince Edward, launched a series yesterday on the game of real tennis (the first television programme produced by his new company Ardent) his producer, Rupert Rummey, praised his performance before the cameras, saying he was "a natural". More modestly, His Highness said: "I just winged it. After all, I do have some experience of amateur dramatics."

The only problem, added Rummey, was the Prince's hand movements. "The Royals have a funny way of playing with their hands,"

he said. "I suppose it's because someone told them that if you let your hands wander you will end up scratching something that shouldn't be scratched, and then someone will take a picture of you."

Footfalls

TOM KING, the former Defence and Northern Ireland Secretary, has revealed his abiding dread of ceremonial tree-plantings in the Province. Posing with an antique shovel at the opening of an Exmoor visitors' centre yesterday, the Bridgwater MP said: "There would be politicians of all sides present, and they would all watch like hawks, because there was something rather profound and significant about which foot you used. I always dig with my left. But I think it was lost a lot of votes from the Protestants."

Get it done

AS THE FLAK flies over Baroness Thatcher's latest comments, the former Prime Minister is beating all-comers when it comes to book-signings. At Hatchards in Piccadilly yesterday she inscribed "Margaret Thatcher" more than 1,300 times in a little over two hours. Touring Britain for ten days and

America for a week she will sign many thousands more copies, but seasoned watchers clocked her yesterday at less than seven seconds per copy, compared to 12 seconds for her previous volume.

"Now, frankly, she is up there among the greats," says that other veteran of book-signing sessions, Lord Archer. "If this was an Olympic event, she would be going for the final."

Another Tory novelist, Michael Dobbs, also recognises a master of the genre. "It takes me at least three times as long to do anything

she can do, including writing my name — even though mine is shorter."

● Eton College is not alone in being shunned, as I revealed last week, by Helen Mirren. The versatile thespian once asked International Who's Who to delete all reference of her from its pages. "We certainly would wish to include the star of Prime Suspect and other distinguished productions," says editor Richard Fitzwilliams. "We would be the poorer without her."

Moveable feast

GRETA SCACCHI found herself playing musical chairs yesterday at a lunch to celebrate the opening of her new movie, *Jefferson in Paris*. As the only member of the cast present at the party in London's Ivy restaurant, she had to oscillate between tables like a dancing capercaille.

"I'm in something of a state of shock," she said. "I didn't realise I would be the only one here." She moved deftly, plate of food in one hand, glass of wine in the other, from one table to another, plonking herself down for a few minutes' chat at each.

P.H.S

A more comfortable place to be than the heart

This suggests that EMU is finally being recognised for what it is — a highly uncertain experiment, with the core countries testing the new process, while the others act as what scientists would call the

Britain has potential allies in this cause. There is a clear community of interest between those countries, such as Italy and Spain, that will not qualify for monetary union and those, such as Britain and possibly Denmark, that simply do not want to join. In the longer run, if the single currency does not work for its members, the first grouping will be glad to have stayed at the edge of Europe. Mr Major's job is to make the edge of Europe a more comfortable and prosperous place to be than the heart.

After a riot, the time for reflection

On important occasions, their assertion of separate values has been jarring and unacceptable, such as in the burning of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* and the support among urban Muslims for the Iranian fatwa against the author. In other contexts, such as in the long-running campaign among Bradford's Muslims to end prostitution in the areas in which they

There is some truth in this, of course: a new generation has now come of age, born in Bradford and without the *stevistic* moorings of the first immigrants, which is disaffected, sullen and relatively rootless. But to say that it has rejected entirely the older values of parents born in Pakistan, of industry and respect for law, would be as pessimistic as it is unfounded. Let the riots serve as warning, however, that all is not as placid in Bradford as we thought it was. There is need now for a period of reflection, which must involve leaders of the Asian community — religious and secular — local councillors, as well as representatives of the local police force. The next fires must be quelled before they rage beyond control.

Oh, the pleasure in those unlucky lottery numbers!

This is not the first time that the lottery has brought bad as well as good luck. The winner of the first roll-over jackpot in December has had to change his name and become a recluse in his palatial new home. With riches, the lottery has brought family feuds, divorce and public abuse, as well as suicide. For Lady Luck is notoriously a bitch with two faces. And from Caligula to Howard Hughes she has bestowed wealth and power beyond the dreams of avarice.

To judge from our infatuation with the lottery, most of us would like to be millionaires. But we also subscribe to the folk wisdom of *fair-plays* and Hollywood about money as a consolation when we do not win.

Money cannot buy you love, though it does put you in a better bargaining position. Money cannot buy you health, though it will pay for your Bupa subscription, a private hospital, and a grand funeral. Money cannot buy you happiness, but it will provide on tap the best therapists, public relations officers and lawyers that money can buy. So the misfortunes of the latest lottery-winner have sent a shiver of malicious pleasure through the nation. But they will not stop our nation of punters wagering millions on unlucky numbers next Saturday.

Sir, The foundation for rapid increases in residential house values was laid in 1964-65 with the introduction of capital gains tax which allowed an exemption for one owner-occupied home. From then on the standard advice to a home-

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA FOSTER
(Director).
The BT Forum,
Telephone House,
2-4 Temple Avenue, EC4.
June 8.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN FOWLER
(Conservative Party
Chairman, 1992-94),
House of Commons.
June 8.

The severity of the means-testing procedure for grants inevitably means that much of the existing housing stock will continue to deteriorate and private landlords, many of whom are letting properties which they are

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE GILMOUR.
5 Mostyn Road,
Bushey, Hertfordshire.
June 9.

Yours faithfully,
TIM BLENKIN,
Blenkin & Co (chartered surveyors),
29 High Petergate, York.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

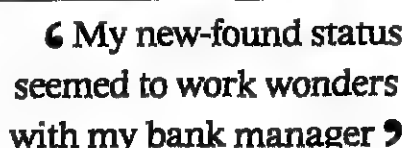
The Church of England and leaders are still faithfully trying to serve the whole community, not just those in the pew.

From Mr Nick Elsley

Sir, I could not resist the temptation to calculate the apparently spectacular investment return represented by the sale price of £3.2 million achieved by Christie's for George Stubbs's *Portrait of a Royal Bengal Tiger* (photograph June 9), compared to its 1807 cost of 350 guineas. The increase in value is in fact equivalent to a little under 5 per cent per annum average compound interest over that period. Good, but not that good.

e, N2

University can be more fun the second time



Being on a course with like-minded students, most of whom had spent the past three years in similar way, gave us a common bond from the start. And, having been through the "new course, new friends" routine before, I found I had a much more laid-back attitude about the whole thing. If you are only in a place for 12 months, you do not want to spend half of it trying to shake off those people who—in blind panic—you became best friends with on the first day.

Knowing only too well the hassles of house-hunting, I decided to take advantage of being a first-year again, and

The rigorous, more structured, 26-hour week proved a refreshing change after three years of studying on my own for long periods. After my undergraduate days of long lie-ins, lectures, and burning the midnight oil poring over the classics, I felt ready to immerse myself in the real world of 9am starts. Funny enough, I felt no remorse at reducing the English language to a selection of squiggles in shorthand classes.

One of the great strengths of the course was the amount of regular individual feedback we got from our course tutors.

Knowing only too well the hassles of house-hunting, I decided to take advantage of being a first-year again, and



asked the accommodation office to find me a university house. I was lucky enough to share with two students on an adjoining course, studying radio and television journalism. This worked out fine because as well as getting to know each other's courses, mates, we shared our enormous newspaper bills and none thought you were boring if you wanted to watch the news.

confirming my hunch that postgraduates do tend to get a better deal on accommodation than freshers, because the university trusts you more. The best thing about being a postgraduate is that you know the system. There do not seem to be as many forms to fill in because you have already got your Railcard, free prescriptions application, student loan and bank account sorted out.

I was a lot more selective

this time about what I took with me. When house-sharing there is no point in taking endless saucapans — last time we ended up with six woks, three toasters and half a dozen cheese graters! And it is a waste of money buying everything on the booklist before you arrive when you can often pick them up second-hand in the university bookshop.

Grants for postgraduate courses are hard to come by.

Having been through the university experience before, I knew about things like student hardship funds, which do not tend to be particularly well advertised. This time, I was in the finance office to collect a form on my first day and managed to get an allowance of £100 a term.

My new-found status as a postgraduate also seemed to work wonders with my bank manager at Lloyds. I had worried that, after three years, the days of an interest-free overdraft might be over. I was told, however, that not only could I keep it for another two years but, at £100,000 a year,

I did have part-time evening jobs in the first and second term, but I would not advise this unless you are desperate for money, as an intensive course like this can be very tiring. I did try working as a waitress in a pizza parlour — which lasted all of two weeks — and then as an usherette at the local theatre, which was much more satisfactory as I could nip backstage at the end of the show and interview the

After all, the object of the exercise is to pass your final exams and step into the spotlight — not switch off your torch and walk into the shadows when the curtain goes up.

TOMORROW

Graduate schools: do they make a difference?

Applications: Most vocational courses tend to take people who have previously shown some interest in the subject...so you are more likely to be successful if you can show evidence of some work experience. I had done work experience on my local newspapers since my schooldays and had a stint as features editor of *Back Press*, the student rag at University College Swansea.

☐ **Fees:** Check with past students that the figure in the prospectus is the overall amount. There are often other costs such as exam fees to find.

☐ **Job success rate:** As the usual reason for doing a postgraduate course is to make yourself more marketable, it is important to check how many past students get jobs — and how quickly.

☐ **Location:** The whereabouts of your course is important as students are often likely to be offered a job in that area, simply because course tutors have more local contacts.

☐ **Accommodation:** If you apply for a university house make sure you state your preferences. Having to live with a bunch of 18-year-olds who have never been away from home before could be a nightmare.

☐ **Reputation:** As well as talking to former students about the quality of the course before you apply, ring up a couple of major employers you would like to work for and ask them what they think of the validity of the course in the profession. If they sound impressed, ask them whether they will consider sponsoring you.

Second Degree: The Times guide to postgraduate courses

Aberdeen U
Mathematical Sciences: Diploma
12FT 24PT 24PT; MSc Lorna Ingram
0171 2735506

Bath U
Contact Dr J Sivaganesan
01225 826826 ext 6003

Birmingham U
Mathematics: MSc 12FT; MSc
12FT 24PT

Cardiff U
Computational Analysis: MSc 12FT

Exeter U
Fluid Mechanics: MSc 12FT; Prof
D H Peregrine 01392 928500

Glasgow Caledonian U
Computation: MSc 12FT; Dr R H
Rose 0117 9285000

Leeds U
Numerical Analysis with
Computational Modelling: MSc
12FT; Prof D A Fowler 0113 275
20524

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SMALL BUSINESS 32

After redundancy,
the stitch
that came in time



LAW 37-41

One litigant's
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Alesi's victory
sows seeds of
doubt at Williams

TREASURES
REMAIN IN
LONDON
Arts 33-35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JUNE 13 1995

Dutch rescue dying shipyard at eleventh hour

Swan Hunter saved

By ERIC REGULY

THE Swan Hunter shipyard on the River Tyne has been bought by a Dutch firm only a week before the yard's industrial fittings were to be sold at auction.

The buyer, THC Group, plans to use the yard to build oil platforms and other types of floating production vessels. Up to 600 jobs could be created at the 40-acre Wallsend site during peak construction periods. Only 39 maintenance and security workers remain out of the 2,400 on the staff when the receivers were called in two years ago.

Alastair Ballis, chief executive of The Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, said: "This venture into an expanding market brings fresh hope and the promise of much-needed jobs for Tyneside." THC made an offer for the Wallsend yard last year but was turned down by Price Waterhouse. The Dutch group made a new offer on June 1 and negotiations continued for the next ten days while preparations for the auction went ahead. Ed James, one of the joint receivers, said he was delighted with the THC deal after two years of seeking a saviour for the yard.

He said: "We have consistently said that we would continue negotiations with interested parties right to the bitter end and this went to the very end. Even though we had to proceed with preparations for an auction this agreement with THC demonstrates that we were right to continue even when all hope seemed to have gone. Today was the deadline for us to be able to cancel the auction plan." THC is thought to have paid about £4 million for the yard, although it would not confirm the price or reveal details of its business plan. Price Waterhouse said the negotiations were rushed because of the auction deadline. More information is expected to emerge over the coming weeks.

THC's British operations



Glen Wilson, of THC, at Swan Hunter's Wallsend yard yesterday. The Dutch group is thought to have paid £4 million for the yard.

are based in Hartlepool, only 30 miles from Swan Hunter. Its two yards build structures for the offshore oil industry and have 500 employees. Glen Wilson, THC's commercial manager, said construction at Wallsend would not rob Hartlepool of jobs.

John Judson, the senior auctioneer at Henry Butcher and Company, said 9,000 lots were to be auctioned over three days next week. About £3 million was expected to be

raised. Swan Hunter was once the world's biggest shipyard. It has built more than 2,700 ships since the 1860s, including the Mauretania passenger liner in 1907, the fastest passenger liner of her era.

In 1977, Swan Hunter was nationalised. Nine years later, four directors bought the company for £5 million and began to pursue defence orders. The strategy worked and the yard was profitable until 1992. But

orders plummeted with the end of the Cold War. An effort to move back into the civil market proved disastrous when Swan Hunter incurred severe cost overruns on the construction of the James Clark Ross, a technically complex ice-breaker.

Meanwhile, the rival VSEL yard, currently the subject of takeover bids from British Aerospace and GEC, was winning most of the orders for the Royal Navy. In May, 1993,

VSEL undercut Swan Hunter by £50 million on a bid to build a navy landing ship. Within 48 hours, Swan Hunter went into receivership. In November, its last ship, the frigate HMS Richmond, left Tyneside for Portsmouth.

Swan Hunter union campaign co-ordinator Eddie Darke hailed the takeover as "a triumph" for the two-year battle to keep the yard open. "We welcome THC with open arms," he said.

Britain ready to approve BAE-Matra link

FROM ROSS TUDMAN AT THE PARIS AIR SHOW

BRITAIN is ready to approve a merger between the missile businesses of British Aerospace and Matra of France, but will not bend its competition rules to facilitate a deal, Roger Freeman, Britain's Minister of Defence Procurement, said yesterday.

While signalling a clear shift in Britain's procurement policy in favour of increased European collaboration, Mr Freeman insisted that only the companies could decide the terms and timing of a deal that would create a 1900 million a year missile group.

Although the deal is now ready to be signed, completion has apparently been delayed by pressure from the companies, and the French Government, for Britain's Ministry of Defence to order a jointly built version of Matra's Apache cruise missile.

During a visit to the Paris Air Show yesterday, Mr Freeman said the MoD had already delayed the closing date for the cruise missile contest to late July to allow BAE/Matra to bid. "It must be for the industry to achieve the rationalisation," Mr Freeman said. The British Government would not frustrate any "rea-

sonable" proposals. But the industrial partners "must make the business judgment around the government programme decisions".

Despite the Government's firm stance on its existing competition rules, Mr Freeman said he was inclined to choose a European collaborative programme, rather than a competition, to source a new medium-range air-to-air missile for Eurofighter 2000, the four-nation fighter being developed jointly by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain. A decision must be made later this year if the missile is to be ready in time when the first planes are delivered in 1998.

BAE and Lagardere Group, Matra's parent, have reached accord, after two years of talks, to create Europe's largest missile manufacturer, with more than 4,500 employees.

Under the terms agreed, between BAE Dynamics and Matra, BAE is expected to pay Matra £50 million on completion to compensate for differences in assets and order books.

Eurofighter, page 6
Airbus orders, page 26
Pennington, page 27

Price data give mixed omens for rates

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE latest figures for costs and prices in industry, closely watched by the Bank of England, yesterday gave an ambiguous message for interest rate policy.

Both producer input and output prices rose more modestly than expected in May, but spilling this better than expected picture was an unwelcome upward revision in April's factory gate prices.

The Central Statistical Office reported that output prices rose by 0.2 per cent in May, the smallest increase since September. But April's original rise of 0.4 per cent was revised to a gain of 0.6 per cent. The annual rate of factory gate price inflation was unchanged at 4.2 per cent.

Taking out food, drink, tobacco and petroleum products, the annual rate of increase rose to 4.5 from 4.2 per cent, the highest for nearly four years.

However, the upward march of raw materials costs seems to be abating. In spite of the weakness of sterling, the annual rate slipped to 10 per cent, slightly lower than expected, from 11.5 per cent in April. In May, input prices were up by just 0.3 per cent.

Don Smith, economist with HSBC markets, said that the worst aspect of the figures was the increase in underlying output prices. He said that the figures, on balance, added a little weight to the view that base rates may have to rise again at some stage.

Michael Bennett said: "Mr Brown has complained about everybody. He has written to every regulatory authority. He has complained about all the professional advisers, including solicitors and receivers."

Unigate to shed 1,500 jobs as deliveries fade

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

UNIGATE, the UK's second-largest dairy group, is to axe 1,500 jobs, nearly a fifth of its dairy workforce, after a steep decline in doorstep deliveries and a £40 million rise in the cost of milk.

The latest job losses, which are in addition to the 324 that resulted from the closure of two plants this year, will be spread over three years and will involve further plant closures. Unigate would not say which sites will close.

The large-scale losses were signalled this year when Unigate followed an announcement by Northern Foods, the country's largest dairy company, that it was cutting 2,200 jobs with a warning of similar plans.

Unigate said yesterday that it would reduce its milk bottling capacity by 40 per cent after the decline in doorstep deliveries quickened to 17 per cent a year. It set aside £55.1 million for a radical overhaul of its dairy business, which includes the cut in milk bottling capacity.

The two largest dairy companies have over the past year announced 5,250 job cuts. Ross Buckland, chief executive of Unigate, said: "When talking of numbers it is very easy to lose sight of it as a personal issue."

Unigate blamed the decline in doorstep deliveries — which it estimates will fall to 25 per cent of milk sales over the three years of the job-cutting programme — on higher milk prices and competition from supermarkets.

The company attacked the deregulation of the milk industry for a rise in milk costs of £40 million. Unigate com-

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plained that Milk Marque, the farmers' co-operative that took over from the Milk Marketing Board last November, functions as an "inadequately regulated, yet dominant, supplier of milk".

Unigate said, however, that it is now dealing direct with farmers for 50 per cent of its needs, ensuring traceable supplies. On that basis, it has secured a contract to supply Marks & Spencer.

Overall milk volumes fell 3 per cent. Unigate's pre-tax profits after exceptional items fell 43.0 per cent to £58.3 million (£102.4 million). The annual payout rises 5.3 per cent to 18.2p, payable on August 8.



Chris Cooper out on his London round yesterday

Nikkei at lowest for three years

By PATRICIA TEHAN

SHARES in Tokyo fell to their lowest level in almost three years as concern over the strong yen, fears about the American-Japan car dispute and worries about Japanese banks' bad debts sent the Nikkei index 230.72 points lower to close at 14,813.46 yesterday.

The mood in Tokyo was not helped by comments from Kiyosuke Shinozawa, the Vice-Finance Minister, who said that the Japanese Ministry of Finance was not considering any "fresh, direct steps" to stimulate share prices.

The last time the Nikkei average closed below 15,000 was on August 19, 1992, when it finished at 14,650.74. A year ago today the Nikkei was trading much higher as investors anticipated an end to the recession. It hit a high for the year of 21,552 on June 13. Pennington, page 27

Finance chief cuts ties with Asprey

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

ASPREY, the Queen's Jeweller that is beset by rumours of financial troubles, has parted company with Nick Harrington, finance director since 1993, after 14 years.

The departure of Mr Harrington, 44, leaves Asprey in need of two executive directors. The Jeweller revealed last month that it had plans to recruit an executive director to oversee the multiple retailing operations, which mainly comprise Mappin & Webb and Watches of Switzerland and account for about 40 per cent of turnover. At the same time, the group announced that Naim Attallah, the chief executive, intended to retire by the end of next year.

The company said that Mr Harrington is leaving at the end of September for "personal reasons". A spokesman denied that his departure had anything to do with either the company's profits for the year to March 31, which are due to be announced on June 29, or

any boardroom dispute. Mr Harrington was on a 12-month contract and Asprey intends to compensate him for loss of office.

Mr Attallah said: "Nick has made an enormous contribution to the Asprey Group over the last 14 years and I am grateful to him."

Mr Harrington, who is said to be considering his options, joined Asprey as financial controller from Oyez Group, a printing company.

Asprey shares fell 1p to 77p — a far cry from the 335p they commanded in April last year.

Since then, the company has issued a profits warning and faced rumours that it was in danger of defaulting on a £20 million loan.

Last month the company announced a rationalisation plan involving the closure of seven under-performing stores and the appointment of Howard Dyer, chairman of Hamleys, as a non-executive director.

Brothers to profit from Oasis float

By SARAH BAGNALL

MICHAEL and Maurice Bennett, chairman and deputy chairman at Oasis, the women's clothing chain, together with a fellow director, will make about £15 million when it floats on the stock market later this month.

After the flotation, the brothers and Vivian Scott, managing director, will hold about 40 per cent of the company's equity, valued at about £30 million.

The company, which has 54 retail stores and 16 in-house concessions in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic, is expected to have a market capitalisation of £75 million.

Oasis has a turbulent history. The brothers, who founded Warehouse, the women's fashion chain, joined Oasis when it was owned by Pinecord. However, boardroom disputes and the recession pushed Pinecord into receivership in January 1991.

The brothers joined forces with Country Casuals to acquire 17 stores from the receivers for £1.6 million. Country Casuals later sold its 50 per cent stake in Oasis to the directors and three venture capital funds, led by Baronessmead.

At present, Oasis directors hold 60 per cent, the venture capital funds 22 per cent, and Country Casual directors 18 per cent. All three groups intend to sell about a third of their holdings.

The boardroom disputes from Pinecord days are still rumbling along as Graham Brown and his wife, the founders of Oasis, have lodged formal complaints with various regulatory bodies.

Michael Bennett said: "Mr Brown has complained about everybody. He has written to every regulatory authority. He has complained about all the professional advisers, including solicitors and receivers."

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Airbus sells 25 A319s to Germany and Canada

FROM ROSS TIEMAN IN PARIS

AIRBUS Industrie yesterday announced orders worth almost \$1 billion for 25 of its newest and smallest A319 120-seat aircraft as British Aerospace completed a joint venture deal to market Saab's Gripen fighter worldwide.

The agreement was unveiled as the wheeling and dealing phase of the Paris Air Show got into full swing on the third day at Le Bourget.

Roger Freeman, Britain's Defence Procurement Minister, was briefed by officials of two of the three companies bidding for Britain's £2.6 billion contract to supply 91 attack helicopters and their munitions. He spent 30 minutes examining the Tiger machine built by Eurocopter, which is being offered in partnership with British Aerospace, before moving on to the Apache offered by McDonnell Douglas and Westland.

GEC is also bidding for the contract, which is expected to be announced next month, with an upgraded version of the American Bell Cobra.

Airbus's latest contracts, from Lufthansa and Air Canada, will double the order intake this year to 50 aircraft at the four-nation European jetliner consortium. On Sunday, Boeing, Airbus's arch-rival, announced orders for 12

of its small 737 twin-jets, taking its total orders so far this year to 110 aircraft.

Bae also announced an order for two more of its Avro regional jets, worth \$40 million, from Turkish Airlines. The contract brings the total fleet of Bae's regional jets to 10. But Bae's most interesting prospect was the conclusion of an agreement for joint marketing of the JAS 39 Gripen fighter with Saab, of Sweden.

The partners believe they can achieve the sale of between 200 and 400 Gripens in export markets, earning up to \$8 billion. Although only seven prototypes are yet complete, Sweden has ordered 140 of the single-engined, super-sonic aircraft which cost about \$20 million.

Bae will undertake 45 per cent of work on the airframe of any Gripens exported, with Saab retaining 55 per cent. In practice, Bae could end up with around 20 per cent of the entire programme.

Work has already begun at Bae's Brough plant on Humberside to modify the plane for hot climates. A final assembly line may be set up at Warton, Lancashire. Norway, Austria, and several Latin American states top the salesmen's list of possible buyers of the plane.



Dan Sullivan, chairman, reported a 23 per cent rise in pro forma pre-tax profits

Footwear company gets into its stride

BY SARAH BAGNALL

A RISE in sales of higher margin products coupled with expansion into America and strong sales growth in France helped Chamberlain Phipps, the footwear manufacturer, to report a 23 per cent rise in pro forma pre-tax profits in the year to April 1.

The company, which re-floated last August, lifted pro forma pre-tax profits from £10.7 million to £13.2 million on sales of £135.1 million, up from £77.2 million.

Dan Sullivan, the chairman, said that he was delighted that the group's first year as a re-floated company was its most profitable trading year to date.

The footwear division, the largest of the group's operations, lifted profits from £2.7 million to £10.3 million on sales ahead to £101.3 million, up from £28.9 million last time.

The sharp increases principally reflected the consolidation of the group's French footwear business, but the results also benefited from a strong rise in exports.

The materials division, which supplies shoe manufacturers such as Clark's, Reebok, Timberland and suppliers to Marks & Spencer, lifted profits from £3.3 million to £4 million on reduced sales of £38.1 million, down from 48.2 million last time.

The company is paying a final dividend of 5.3p, making a total for the year of 8p. The dividend, due on August 10, is being paid out of pro forma earnings of 20.2p a share, up 29 per cent.

Court clears BBA's deal for Fiberweb

THE Basle civil court has ruled in favour of BBA Group's lock-up deal with Holvis under which BBA may acquire the Swiss company's non-woven textiles business even if its £230 million takeover bid for the entire company fails. The court rejected a complaint by International Paper Co of America that the board of Holvis acted illegally in recommending the BBA bid. International Paper has said it is prepared to bid £260 million if Holvis rejects the BBA offer.

IP had obtained a temporary injunction from the Basle court last week restraining Holvis, a leading non-woven textiles and paper distribution company, from selling 67,025 treasury shares to BBA. But the court ruled after a formal hearing that the injunction should be lifted. It also rejected IP's claim that Holvis has acted illegally by signing a separate deal to sell its Fiberweb non-wovens subsidiary to BBA for about £140 million even if a higher bid emerged for the whole company. The court's president confirmed IP had a right of appeal but gave warning that it could take years.

Good year for Renold

PROFITS at Renold, the manufacturer of gears and chains, rose sharply to £11.6 million from £6 million in the year to April 1 as the benefits of restructuring and capital investment made an impact. Turnover rose to £148.7 million from £130 million. Earnings advanced to 13.6p a share from 7.4p and the total dividend is lifted to 4.5p a share from 2.5p with a 3.3p final, to be paid on August 10. The shares rose 10p to 217p after Peter Frost, chairman, said the current year had started well with the order book substantially higher than a year ago. Renold was well placed to win new business. The company ended the year with net cash of £4.4 million.

Whitcroft advances

TRADING profits at Whitcroft, the industrial holding company with interests in lighting, building products and specialist materials, advanced to £7.4 million from £5.5 million in the year to March 31 in spite of continuing low levels of demand. At the pre-tax level, profits rose to £12.7 million from £4.3 million, helped by a £5.9 million surplus on a property transaction and the absence of a repeat of the previous year's losses on disposals. Group borrowings were reduced to £9.9 million from £18 million. Total earnings rose to 24.2p a share from 8.8p and the total dividend is lifted to 4.25p a share from 2p, with a 2.75p final due on August 14.

Builders 'hit by banks'

BUILDERS suffer the worst treatment from their banks, according to a study published by Ibsa, a bank action group. Eddy Weatherill, chief executive, said that in his experience, 45 per cent of all complaints from businesses came from builders, property developers and construction companies. He said it was wrong to blame reckless borrowing or poorly-run businesses, concluding that "reckless lending has been the major problem". Banks have overcharged business customers by an estimated £7 billion over a six-year period, with many so-called "mistakes" caused by carelessness, according to Anglia Business Associates, which specialises in detecting such errors.

Oriflame targets India

ORIFLAME, the door-to-door cosmetics group, plans to expand into India after its successful foray into Latin America and Southern Europe. The group saw sales leap 170 per cent in Mexico, 90 per cent in Portugal and 85 per cent in Chile in the year to March 31. Overall sales fell from £86.7 million to £81 million but lower costs helped to lift operating profits 13 per cent to £14.2 million. Pre-tax profits rose by 13 per cent to £15.8 million. The final dividend was lifted from 8.7p to 9.4p, making a total for the year of 14p, up from 13p last time. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 25.2p a share, up from 22.4p last time. Shares rose 5p to 285p.

Publisher's shares dip

SHARES in Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers fell 23p to 570p yesterday after the regional newspaper publisher said the industry's short-term outlook remained uncertain. Profits will also be adversely affected by the expiry of contracts to print national newspapers. In the year to April, pre-tax profits rose to £3.3 million from £7.3 million, with earnings improving to 42.8p a share from 41p. There is a final dividend of 8.19p a share, due July 31, making a total of 11.7p (10.64p). Rationalisation costs of £1.09 million compared with costs of £1.7 million in the previous year.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
The Receiver, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, is hereby notified that he has been appointed Administrative Receiver of the following assets:
1. The assets of the company known as "The Kiosk Group Limited" (Incorporated in England).
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□ Japan's bear market will not last forever □ Australia's brewing duopoly provides a lesson □ BAE plays the market

Writing off the Nikkei

□ HOW are the mighty fallen. Tokyo was the only top world stock market to shrug off the 1987 crash, when London shares dropped 30 per cent in a few weeks. Barely pausing, Japanese shares raced on, to triple in price over the four years to the end of 1989. Amazingly, however, the tortoise has outpaced the hare. From the beginning of 1987 to yesterday's nostalgic computer breakdown, the FT-SE 100 index virtually doubled. Over that same 8½-year period, the Nikkei index has fallen a net 11 per cent. From the peak, Tokyo shares have shed an average 62 per cent of their market value.

The law insists that share prices can go down as well as up. The Nikkei's course offers a reminder that this warning is not merely formal. So far, the bear market has lasted 5½ years. Economists and stock analysts reckon it is not over yet. Is the Japanese economy crumbling, or is Tokyo merely pitching for the longest stock market correction in history? Tokyo has suffered long bear markets before, but there is little doubt that its present troubles are imported. American efforts to hobble Japan's economy by forcing it to deregulate financial markets are working. Japan is adjusting to the world. That means Japanese growth rates are falling from Eastern to

Western levels as the system of mutual financial support and stability breaks down.

The twin pillars of the Japanese economic miracle are crumbling. Savings are being undermined by the bear market, by the bursting of the property bubble and by ludicrously low short-term interest rates, imposed on Western monetary principles. Corporate investment, which supported high growth, is flagging. In 1995, big companies plan to raise capital spending for the first time in four years, but only by 3 per cent. Product prices are falling, unemployment is a record 3.5 per cent, consumers are scared. If the economy is still recovering, as the Bank of Japan insisted on Friday, then it is scaling the upswing with all the speed of a one-legged rock climber.

There is, however, something brightly encouraging about the deep gloom now shrouding Japanese financial markets. Good news is ignored, bad news is swallowed avidly. New found value-for-money is seen as irrelevant. Share prices are falling on short-selling in thin markets.

America has sent trade gunboats to finish the damage done by the rising yen. Foreign brokers bemoan "the deluge of doom-laden data". The Western free marketeers who muscled into Tokyo on the back of deregulation are urging the Government to take drastic action to bail out the stock market, like somehow relieving banks of their bad debts.

This is reminiscent of the end of the long London bear market in autumn 1974. Share prices soon doubled on the rebound. With the Nikkei index below 15,000 and falling, brave investors with patience will wait no longer to start buying.

Bidding g'day to competition

□ ONCE upon a time, in a country far, far away, there was a whole tribe of happy brewers who strove diligently to produce a wide range of different tipples for their customers. Not long after, there were two — and the beer was pretty rotten, to boot. The country is Australia, and the story should be an interesting



one for the Office of Fair Trading as it considers the proposed Scottish & Newcastle purchase of Courage. The OFT has until the middle of next month to make a ruling, and the evidence so far seems finely balanced. S&N and Courage want the market as a whole, including imports, to be considered and not just UK production. That chosen measure produces a merged market share of an acceptable 25 per cent against a rather less agreeable 31 per cent. The deal, in whatever shape it finally goes through, will pave the way for other big brewers to combine.

In 1975, four years before the abolition of the tied house in Australia as part of a general deregulation, there were five big

brewers and several independents, the latter holding 15 per cent of the market. By 1993, the five had become two, and between them had more than 90 per cent of the market. The top five brands had almost half of all beer sales, as against an equivalent figure of a fifth for their British counterparts. Wholesale price competition, a visiting British MP subsequently told this country's Select Committee on Agriculture, was limited. The result was higher prices and, as the Prices Surveillance Authority, the equivalent of the OFT, found, "the existence of market power exercised jointly by the major brewers".

The only serious pricing competition, the PSA found, served as a defence against new market entrants. One should not assume that the Australian experience will automatically be mirrored here as the brewing industry consolidates. In Australia, there emerged only two main players, while by any reasonable analysis, Britain should be left with three. But geography alone suggests Australia, with several widely spread population centres, should not have been left with a duopoly. The OFT, during its deliberations, might do well to cast an eye Down Under.

make one. BAE has already confirmed two important moves on military aircraft, its prime interest, at the Paris Air Show. One will fill a gap, significantly improve its range in the short term. The other could finally establish it in helicopters, where it has been trying belatedly, but doggedly, to outflank Westland.

A merger of the group's inherited missile interest with France's Mbra would be more important than either. But any welcome depends on the terms. Thus far, BAE has not displayed much skill at forging joint ventures, unlike GEC. When governments are involved, French interest usually predominates. BAE held back on missiles after improving its bargaining position in the Gulf War. It will need to demonstrate that it has capitalised on that.

Stealthy dealing at Le Bourget

□ BRITISH Aerospace is evidently a lot keener to return to the bid battle for VSEL than its big City shareholders. The company and its allies reckon that, in accounting terms, it could afford to top GEC's apparently knock-out offer. One way or another, however, BAE would need City support for its share price to mount an effective challenge. It would need to do some persuading, given its past mistakes and the City view that its main purpose is to protect itself from a takeover by GEC or from a strong-arm merger of defence interests. That is the last thing the fund managers want.

At this early stage, Dick Evans, BAE's chief executive, is already preparing the ground for a graceful withdrawal, should that ultimately prove necessary. He should certainly be able to

London for sale

□ FORGET those house market blues. According to the latest Knight Frank & Rutley prime London property index, house prices have now recovered to their 1989 peak, rising by a quarter in the past three years. The secret? At the most buoyant top end of the market, 70 per cent of buyers are foreigners, cheered by the falling pound. The snag? The top end of the market is properties over £600,000.

Berisford shares slide on profit fears at Magnet

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES of Berisford International, the kitchens, doors and windows group, fell 39p to 219p yesterday as the company issued a warning that competition coupled with a depressed joinery market would knock profits at its Magnet subsidiary.

The fall, which knocked 15 per cent off the company's stock market value, followed the unveiling of a strong turnaround in profits for the six months to March 31.

The group made a pre-tax profit of £11 million compared with a £5.8 million loss last time and announced the payment of a 1p interim dividend, the first since 1989. Group turnover rose from £51.3 million to £158 million.

The company comprises Magnet, which was acquired for £56 million in January 1994, and Weibit Corporation, one of the largest commercial kitchen manufacturers in America. Weibit was acquired for £200 million in December.

Magnet made an operating profit of £6.5 million on sales of £94.5 million while Weibit

made a first time contribution — for a period of nine weeks — of £6.2 million on sales of £46.5 million.

Alan Bowkett, the chief executive, yesterday gave warning that the second-half performance of Magnet would fail to match the first-half performance.

He said that this reflected a depressed joinery market and fierce competition. "Magnet is doing well on kitchens and windows. But the doors business is declining as a result of intense competition from rivals," he said.

In the second half, Mr Bowkett expects falling margins from the doors business, which accounts for 25 per cent of Magnet's sales, to drag down overall margins.

The impact is reduced by an improvement in the cost base of Magnet, which comprises 200 outlets and has 2,300 employees. The company expects to reduce staff numbers slightly.

The warning prompted analysts to cut full-year profit forecasts from between £31 million and £33 million to

about £29 million. The cut would have been more but for improved forecasts for Weibit.

That company's £6.2 million contribution to operating profits represents a 26.1 per cent rise over the comparable period last time. Mr Bowkett said that the business had benefited from the strong growth of fast-food chains in America.

Andrew Hollins, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, said: "Weibit's performance was better than expected. We have upgraded Weibit but it does not offset the downgrade for Magnet."

The group realised £24.6 million from the sale of "old" Berisford businesses, relating principally to Kelton and Euro Trailer Rental. The only remaining business is the Californian agribusiness which "I don't expect we will have in a year's time," said Mr Bowkett.

The final dividend, which is due on July 18, is being paid out of earnings of 6.4p a share, compared with a loss of 4.2p last time.

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Laurie Todd, finance director of Kleeneze, back, with Robin Klein, the chairman, yesterday

Kleeneze to lift final dividend

By SARAH BAGNALL

MOVES to cut bad debt levels run up by its direct selling agents dented profits at Kleeneze Holdings, the home shopping group, in the six months to February 28.

Pre-tax profits fell from £249,000 to £690,000 as sales at its Kleeneze division fell because of tougher credit limits on agents. Losses and restructuring costs at Hawkhead, the countrywide joint venture with Hollis Group, also hit profits.

In contrast, Innovations, the direct home shopping operation, lifted operating profits 22.4 per cent to £1.5 million, on sales up 38.5 per cent to £30.6 million.

The company is not paying an interim dividend, but Robin Klein, chairman, said the board intended to lift the final dividend from 1.5p. Earnings per share fell to 4.23p (4.77p).

Remedial action has been taken at the Kleeneze division and Hawkhead restructured. Mr Klein said: "The on-going strength of the Innovations division and the recoveries anticipated from Kleeneze and at Hawkhead, gives the board every confidence."

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Salvesen savours single market

By MARTIN WALLER

THE benefits of the single European market declared in January 1993 are at last becoming apparent at Christian Salvesen, the transport to services group, with an upturn in cross-border trading.

Chris Masters, chief executive, said growing demand would prompt further expansion for the group's distribution business, particularly in Continental Europe, where profits rose almost a quarter in the last financial year.

He said: "We're actually starting to see the single market coming through and having an impact on the business, and we've put in common information technology systems across the business in Europe as a result."

The company was announcing a set of figures for the year to March 31, however, that failed to spark any such enthusiasm on the stock market, where disappointment at the group's slow progress sent the shares 7p lower, to 253p.

Pre-tax profits were up £30 million to £104.1 million, but much of this increase came from one-off sales of business-

es, and the directly-comparable figure was £77.7 million, against £74.0 million.

The advance in profits was limited to the distribution business, which managed a 13 per cent rise at the operating level to £45 million, and the other two divisions both showed declines.

Specialist hire was off 2.3 per cent to £25.7 million, while food services fell 20 per cent to £8.1 million. Salvesen is paying a 5.0p final dividend raising the total from 8.1p to 8.4p, out of earnings per share before exceptional items that rose 0.5p to 19.5p.

Mr Masters added that while the current year had started soundly, there was still uncertainty in some markets.

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Electron aims for merger

By MARTIN BASHAW

ELECTRON HOUSE, the distributor of electronic components, has announced plans to merge with subsidiaries of Electrowatt AG to form a new European distribution group with annual sales of more than £300 million.

The British company also proposes to dispose of its operations in Australia and New Zealand for £17.7 million. The proceeds of the sale to Avnet Inc. of America, will be used in connection with the merger.

The three Electrowatt subsidiaries are known collectively as Eurodis. This is a multi-franchise distributor of electronic components operating on the Continent.

Shares in Electron House were suspended at 181p yesterday, pending a vote by shareholders on the proposals.

RAC takes Fastrac to Continent

The RAC has set up Fastrac, a company with partners in Germany, Spain and the Benelux countries, with the aim of securing a large slice of the European Union's £3 billion-a-year motor assistance market.

David Livermore, the group managing director of RAC Motoring Services, said the aim was to capture 15 per cent of the EU market by 2000. The new company, registered in The Netherlands, will be initially headquartered in Britain but will be moved to the Continent later. RAC has 73 per cent of equity and intends to keep a majority stake. Mr Livermore is the first chairman of Fastrac.

Partners in the company, whose initial capital is £7.2 million, are RACC of Spain, RW-TV of Germany, Van Amedey International of The Netherlands and VTB-VAB of Belgium. RAC has also brought in its own French operations.

Acal ahead

Acal, a distributor of electronic and industrial controls, lifted taxable profits to £8.2 million from £3.6 million in the year to the end of March, helped by a maiden £2.6 million contribution from EAF. Turnover rose to £109 million from £78.5 million. Earnings improved to 25p a share from 15.2p. There is a final dividend of 5p a share, due on August 1, making a total of 7.44p (6.75p).

Field grows

Field Group, which makes folding cartons, made pre-tax profits of £15.4 million, up from £13.7 million, with earnings rising to 20.2p a share, from 17.9p. The total dividend rises to 7.7p from 7.05p a share, with a 5.2p share due for payment on September 25. The shares rose 4p to 294p.

EuroDollar shares dive after profits warning

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in EuroDollar Holdings, Britain's second largest car rental company, tumbled 20p to 212p after it accompanied a 16.7 per cent rise in full-year profits with a warning that intense price competition would take a toll of this year's first-half profits.

The opening of new outlets in Britain and overseas helped the group, which came to the market last July, to lift pre-tax profits to £14.6 million in the year to March 31, against £12.6 million last time.

Turnover expanded 18 per cent to £85.9 million, with EuroDollar now operating 110 branches in the UK and an international franchised network in 37 countries.

However, the benefits of

volume gains and increased market share have been offset by intense competition, leading to severe pressures on pricing and margins, and higher costs.

The company said that although results for the current year as a whole were expected to be satisfactory, the first six months were likely to show a reduction, compared with the corresponding period last year.

To make matters worse, some institutional shareholders in EuroDollar were left far from happy by an announcement that certain directors and shareholders plan share sales after the expiry of restrictions undertaken at the time of the placing. SG Warburg, the

company's broker, intends to arrange an orderly disposal on behalf of those shareholders who may wish to sell any shares.

Prudential, Morgan Grenfell, Electra, and Charterhouse are among shareholders understood to be planning share sales, but other investors are thought to be unhappy as EuroDollar shares already stand below the flotation price of 220p.

There is a final dividend of 6.2p, payable on August 7, giving a total of 7.8p for the period since flotation. Earnings rose 17.9 per cent to 19.97p (16.94p) a share.

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The Eagle has taken off again

By MARTIN BARROW

EAGLE TRUST, the troubled former conglomerate embroiled in the Iraqi supergun affair, has returned to profit for the first time since 1987.

But shareholders must wait until the proposed flotation of the company's Film and Television Group subsidiary takes place later this year before knowing whether they will receive any return on their ill-fated investment.

The company, which collapsed in 1989 and was slowly nursed back to health by company doctor David James, yesterday reported profits of £1.1 million for 1994, which compared with a loss of £5.5 million in the previous 12 months. In 1992, the business lost £7.59 million.

News of the return to profit follows an out-of-court settlement with KPMG, the company's former auditor,

which has paid Eagle Trust £24 million.

After extensive restructuring, Eagle Trust's one remaining subsidiary is FTG, comprising an international network of companies providing technical support services to the television, film and presentation industries.

In 1987, Eagle Trust had some 40 subsidiaries and appeared to be trading successfully until the disclosure of a loss to shareholders' funds of £19 million. In 1989, trading in the company's shares on the Stock Exchange was suspended. A year later, authorities were alerted that a subsidiary might be making parts for the Iraqi supergun.

John Ferriday, a former chief executive, was charged in 1990 with the theft of £13.5 million in cash and shares. In 1993, he was jailed for six years.

Mr James said yesterday: "The current intention is to seek the flotation of FTG later this year, hopefully producing sufficient funds to clear residual bank debt and achieve a small return for our long suffering shareholders who lost so much with the collapse of the business."

However, Mr James gave warning that no payment can be made to ordinary shareholders until all prior claims have been met, including the discharge of bank debts and the redemption of the "A" preference shares. Last year FTG recorded a profit before interest and tax for its continuing businesses of £7.12 million, rising from £3.2 million in 1993. Capital investment for FTG increased to £15.4 million in 1994 from £12.97 million the previous year.



James: long road back to health

Friendly HOTELS PLC

1994 RESULTS

RESULTS IN BRIEF

TURNOVER
PROFIT BEFORE TAX
EARNINGS PER SHARE
ORDINARY DIVIDENDS

1994
£'000
38,787
3,647
8.7p
5.7p

1993
£'000
32,356
2,607
6.3p
5.7p

- Friendly's recovery continued during the year with a profit improvement of 39.9% on 1993. A final dividend of 3.5 pence is proposed so fully maintaining the total dividend on the capital increased by the rights issue.
- The hotels division has been the main source of our improved profitability. Acquisitions made during the year included the 154 room Friendly Hotel in Tassurup in Greater Copenhagen, the Comfort Friendly Inn in Hull and the Woodland Comfort Inn in Thetford.
- The Group now operates 30 hotels with over 3,100 rooms and 18 serviced office locations.
- Having achieved a useful improvement in profitability last year, we are confidently looking forward to maintaining this trend in 1995 and in the years to come, subject, as usual, to no unforeseen circumstances arising. It is also intended to consider a dividend increase if our aims are realised.

'It pays to stay Friendly'

For a copy of the latest Report and Accounts please apply to the Secretary, Friendly Hotels PLC, Premier House, 10 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Insurers? They love them

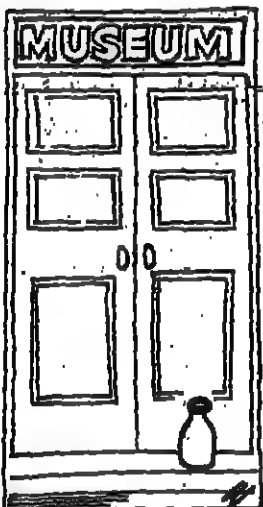
OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC selling put the life insurance industry under a political cloud in Britain. In South Africa, it is bathing in the sun, the industry's support from the country's leaders. President Mandela even turned out in Cape Town last week as guest of honour for the 150th anniversary dinner of Old Mutual, the life insurer long associated with Boer money.

Smoke warning

DOING business in Europe can damage your health sounds the warning from David Livermore, group managing director of RAC Motoring Services and no Euro-sceptic. He says the hardest part of his drive to set up Astra, a sort of pan-European "Knights of the Road", was the heavy smoking of his continental partners during the two-year negotiations. Smoke-filled rooms may be vanishing here, but they are still in vogue across the Channel.

Life and art

HAMISH BRYCE, TIG chairman, who has spent much of his life lighting the world, has been elevated to a loftier plane with his appointment as a non-executive director of The Sculpture Company, marketing arm of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. Having served Mammot with the flotation last year of TIG, parent of Thom Lighting, Bryce can now serve beauty.



Check this out

HAS romance struck SuperMarketing, Journal for the food and drink trade? Its latest front cover has the Prince of Wales planting a "kiss" on his estranged spouse (supposedly to lure readers to an article about the failed Co-op merger plans). This is not a royal first for the magazine, according to Tracy Forrest, the editor. The Princess of Wales graced the cover last August. The most popular front page since the weekly was relaunched last year was Liz Hurley in "that dress".

Out of sequence

THE suspension of stock market indices for 45 minutes yesterday afternoon was a "service problem" and had nothing to do with the London Stock Exchange's introduction of Sequence 4, its latest rolling upgrade to the trading system. An exchange spokesman insisted. As of yesterday, orders can be arranged and hit electronically (provided the system's not down).

Bumped off

HARRY BAUM, the London consultant for the City of Munich Convention Bureau, has had the painful task of telling 230 representatives of the British conference industry that they are no longer invited to a Munich evening at Hampton Court on July 4 because too many people have already accepted invitations. To those who will miss the party, he promises a consolation prize of preferential treatment on next year's programme of weekend trips to Bavaria.

Philip Bassett reports on the huge growth in double-jobbing

When two jobs are all in a day's work

Ed Wallis of PowerGen calls them his "little jobs" — the extra posts that add £36,000 to his £1.2 million salary and options package as the generating company's chief executive. At the other end of the scale, Gina manages to be a full-time nanny and a full-time fitness instructor — taking home from the two jobs about a quarter of what Mr Wallis picks up from his "little" jobs alone.

In addition to what ministers hope will be a further fall in unemployment, in figures to be published tomorrow, there will be new information on how jobs and work are shaping up in the recovery — and how many people are now doing more than one, two or more jobs. Second-jobbing is widespread in Britain. As Tony Blair, the Labour leader, puts it: "Over a million people now have two jobs — because of the low pay of the main job that they have." It is not a problem that has driven the likes of Mr Wallis to take on the burden of his additional "little" jobs, which together net him about twice the national average salary, but it is very much the impetus why Gina and similar workers struggle to manage the complexities of holding down two or sometimes even more different working lives.

Tomorrow's figures will show that there are more than 12 million people in Britain with two or more jobs. A few are part-time, non-executive directors at the apex of their careers, riding pleasantly on the executive merry-go-round from boardroom to boardroom. Most are far from that: 40 per cent of second job holders are under the age of 35, trying to make ends meet by cramming in as much work as they can.

In fact, the real number of second jobs may be much higher than tomorrow's figures will show. Although the figures are drawn from the Government's authoritative quarterly Labour Force Survey of a statistically large sample of 60,000 households, labour market analysts acknowledge that they are likely to be a substantial under-recording of the scale of second-jobbing. Many people's second jobs, including those of nanny/aerobic teacher Gina (not her real name), are in the black economy, undeclared for tax purposes, and likely to be under-reported to the Government's LFS questionnaires.

Even so, on the official figures alone, the growth in second-jobbing is huge. Over the past decade,



employment has risen by about 8 per cent. During the same period, the number of people with second jobs is up 70 per cent — more than doubled. The recent acceleration is remarkable.

Over the past two years, the number of people with second jobs is up by almost a quarter. Indeed, with a rise of 230,000 in the number of second-jobbers, the total is almost equal to the 245,000 increase in total employment over the same period — allowing Michael Portillo's Employment Department to claim a net rise in jobs of 475,000, or close to 2 per cent.

But like most aspects of the UK labour market, the pattern is more complex. Using unpublished data held on government computers, The Times today presents a new analysis of second jobs, which shows some startling cross-currents in the way people work.

Second job growth is strong in the service sector, for instance — up 31.6 per cent in the last two years to a total of 990,000 people working in services and doing two or more jobs. At the same time, second-jobbing in manufacturing is down, by more than 4 per cent overall. Half of all second jobs are carried out by women working primarily in the service sector.

Second-jobbing is both higher among women, and rising faster. There are now 678,000 women with second jobs, and 530,000 men — up respectively over two years by 27 and 19 per cent.

While the changes in second-jobbing industrially reflect general structural shifts — the number of people with second jobs is down sharply, for instance, in energy and construction, in line with general falls in employment in such industries — in others the second-jobbing change outperforms any sectoral

move. The number of women with second jobs in the public services, for instance — health, education and central and local government — is up 31 per cent over the last two years, to 297,000. Public services now soak up almost a third of all second jobs, mainly because of the number of public service workers taking a second public service job.

Second jobs in banking, finance and insurance, which has seen a shift away from so-called "good" jobs to out-of-town data processing work, are up 46 per cent, to 162,000. Second-jobbing in the distribution sector, including hotels and restaurants, is up by a third, to 240,000. The sector comprises a quarter of all second jobs, with as many as 38 per cent of second-jobbers already working in this area taking up another job there as their secondary work.

But The Times analysis suggests

for the first time what it is that second-jobbers do in their primary work. Unsurprisingly, most stick to what they know, simply doing for another employer what they do with their first, although there are some noticeable cross-occupations, almost certainly reflecting economic necessity rather than job choice.

Take managers and administrators, the group that includes Ed Wallis. As defined by the LFS, they form 16 per cent of total employment. Only about 4 per cent have second jobs, perhaps confirming the insistence of some business leaders that the public's view of company bosses endlessly scratching each other's backs in different boardrooms is confined to a very small number of people.

But of those with second jobs, the largest number hold them in exactly the same occupational group — 28 per cent of second-jobbing man-

ers are managers in their primary and secondary jobs, with the proportion higher for men at 34 per cent.

Traditional craft workers, too, stick to their own where they can. The 3.3 million craft workers form a declining though still substantial section of UK employment, at about 13 per cent of the total. Second-jobbing is much less common among craft workers, with the proportion of craft employees with second jobs standing at half the national second job average.

But of those who do, 18 per cent work in other craft jobs. Even in such a traditional employment area, the economic imperative is clear, though, with a third of all second-jobbing craft workers employed in their secondary job in the so-called "personal and protective services sector".

This area, comprising such disparate employment sectors as hairdressing and private security firms, is one of the key job growth areas of the economy, up about 7 per cent over the last two years alone. It now accounts for a tenth of all UK employment.

In this sector, second-jobbing is high at 6.4 per cent of the total number of employees working in it, a third as much again as the second-jobbing national average. More than two-fifths of those doing a second job work in the same area, probably in much the same kind of work, but for a different employer.

The sector also soaks up large numbers of other second-jobbers. Ministers keen to prod other aspects of labour market flexibility tend not to focus on second-jobbing. Labour market theorists, such as Professor Charles Handy, of the London Business School, believe that the second jobs trend is not only economically inefficient but socially divisive, as more people do more of society's available work, while for more and more people there is less or no work available at all.

Second jobs, whether at Mr Wallis's level or at the other end of the economic scale, clearly irritate and often anger those with no jobs at all. But it is likely that although it is the "little" jobs of high earners that grab the headlines, The Times analysis suggests that the reality of second jobbing is the rougher end of labour market flexibility: people struggling to make ends meet in an increasingly tough jobs market.

Can Carling lift team spirit amid the corporate scrum?

Victoria McKee looks at moves to apply the singular motivation of the sporting arena to UK plc



Everyone wants to get their hands on Carling

Sports motivation is making its corporate cousin look weedy and becoming big business for sportspeople who might otherwise have found coaching the only career open to them. Take Will Carling, the England rugby captain who founded Insights Ltd four years ago to have "captains of sport" present motivational seminars to "captains of industry". The business is now thriving, as is Inspirational Horizons, the company he formed to handle his own motivational speaking engagements.

KPMG, one of Britain's largest accountancy firms, is typical of the type of client beating its way to Carling's door. Colin Sharman, its senior UK partner, is a great rugby fan, explains KPMG's head of communications Neil Sherlock, adding: "About 18 months ago, we developed a programme with them about leadership and motivation — and Will is present at every one, although we've had the swimmer Adrian Moorhouse, the yachtsman Tracy Edwards and even Sebastian Coe — since he became an MP. We've now done six courses around the UK, with a mixture of our staff and clients."

And the result? Have mid-manned accountants metamorphosed into "18 stone of ferocious, masculine muscle" as Carling and his co-author Robert Heller, founding editor of *Management Today*, refer to England rugby players in *The Way to Win: strategies for success in business and sport*? Has the team spirit extended so far that they've started taking communal baths? "Not quite, but people do walk a bit taller afterwards," says Sherlock. Tim Clarke, a senior manager in KPMG's Manchester office was impressed by his one-day seminar with Carling, Edwards and Moorhouse. "One of the

main things they showed to me was to always focus on the positive aspects of your work. Will did the first session for an hour and you can understand how he motivates a team to go out and play better. After that I tried to praise my team for all the good things they were doing." More "over the moon" than "sick as a parrot" talk has produced results, he says.

Every sportsperson or "achiever", as some agencies prefer to call them — taking account of people such as Helen Sharman, the astronaut, and Robert Swan, the explorer, both of whom are in the circuit — is now moving into management motivation, it seems. "Everybody's doing it," according to Athol Still Sports Management, which handles some of the work carried out by Duncan Goodhew, Sharon Davies, Judy Simpson and Steve Redgrave, to name a few, booking them for up to £10,000 a time with companies such as BP and IBM.

Heller says: "All great sports achievers have lessons to teach business, because that application, that knowledge of self is vital. I've talked to people who have been on the insight seminars and they've been all fired up. I remember one man with regional offices all over Britain who told me, 'I used to go straight through to the boss I wanted to see. After listening to Will Carling, I learnt to stop at every desk and really felt the result of that.' Great leadership is made up of small things like that." That said, not every successful

sports "achiever" can articulate, let alone encapsulate, the kind of motivation business managers need.

Craig Sharp, a sports scientist who has worked with hundreds of sportsmen and women, cites Steve Redgrave, Olympic rowing champion, who endured an exhaustion test in the lab and was cheered on by those present. "As the end, he was furious," Dr Sharp recalled. "He said 'don't ever do that to me again. I'm an Olympic gold medalist and I'm perfectly able to motivate myself. I don't need you to shout at me. So I don't think he would encourage businesspeople to be motivated because he wouldn't understand their problem if they weren't. Whereas a Jack Charlton, or a great athletics trainer like John Anderson, would."

Anderson, who has coached Liz McColgin, David Moorcroft and Judy Simpson, among others, thinks that few of them would be good for business. "There's an assumption that because you've had toothache you should be a good dentist. It's nonsense. Although there will be individuals who have been successful in their sport who can communicate why, or what is important, the reality is very few of them can. Most can only say 'this is what I did, and I'm great.' There is a particular quality of personality that identifies the successful competitor. They are self-focused, self-centred. It's all about I. The coach on the other hand has a different persona, which is why great athletes seldom make great coaches. The ability to 'go for gold' as an individual may not be what's required in a company."

British Airways features in the book by Carling and Heller but "has never used sports personalities to motivate staff and doesn't intend to," according to Allan Solloway, a BA spokesman. But BA does see "some analogies between their aims and ours — to be the best and most successful company in the airline industry — to do that you have to be a winner."

The Way to Win: strategies for success in business and sport — Carling and Heller (Little Brown, £16.99).

Stand-ins would solve vote row

From Mr Edward M. Beaumont
Sir, The GMB general union seeks a ban on institutional shareholders proxy voting (Union seeks ban on AGM proxy voting, June 5), while ProShare says (Business Letters, June 8) that to do so negates rather than improves democracy and accuses the union of not thinking out its argument. It is ProShare who could do the thinking.

When company law was written, proxy votes were designed for shareholders who were unable to attend the meeting for some reason. Institutional shareholders are corporate. Not all their employees or advisers are sick or on holiday at one time. They have the right to send a representative to the meeting and vote (one shareholder, one vote). Institutions should be required to do this, or not vote. At the meeting if, following the show of hands, a poll (one share, one vote) is demanded, then it can be arranged on the basis of the shareholders physically represented there.

If individual shareholders were given a similar right to send a representative (or appoint someone such as the chairman to "put up a hand" for them) then no one would need proxy voting. The objection to proxy voting is that it is an advance poll, the result of which is known to the directors before the meeting. Yours truly,
EDWARD M. BEAUMONT,
Solicitor (non-practising),
43 Crofton Lane,
Hill Head,
Fareham,
Hampshire.

Damned if they do, damned if they don't

From Christopher Moore
Sir, Without wishing to pre-judge the outcome of current inquiries into the Government's sell-off of power generation shares it ought to be remembered that the proceeds of the sale were for the benefit of the public/Treasury. In the past, the Government has been accused of selling the family silverware too cheaply. It seems it just can't win. Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MOORE,
c/o 29a Thurloe Place,
SW7.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Positive sum game of privatisation

From the Director-General of the Office of Water Services
Sir, Graham Searjeant alleges (Yorkshire Water plans £320m payback, June 8) that Yorkshire Water has cast doubt over last year's water price review by announcing customer rebates, improvement in service and higher dividends. How can this be? The new price limits start this year. Yorkshire's payments relate to

the last five years, where the company has outperformed expectations at privatisation. If such outperformance is properly shared with customers, we are seeing the benefits of a positive sum game where incentives to efficiency produce benefits for customers. Yours faithfully,
IAN BYATT,
Director-General, Ofwat,
7 Hill Street, Birmingham.

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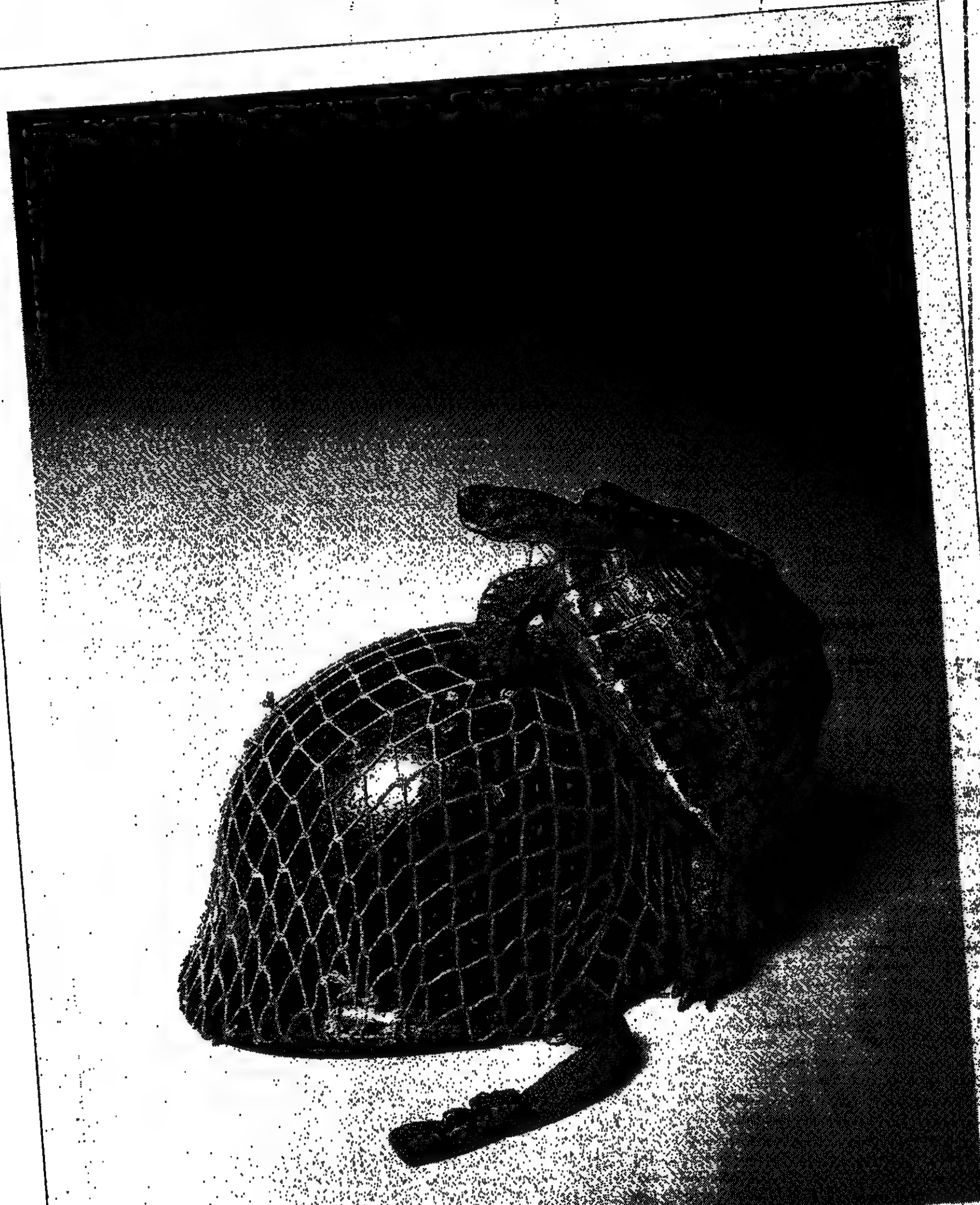
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British Value	40.00	+0.25	0.40
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British Net Worth	20.00	+0.25	0.20
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Glaxo	40.00	+0.25	0.40
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Pfizer	20.00	+0.25	0.20
Merck	15.00	+0.25	0.15
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British Bond	100.00	+0.25	1.00
British Dividend	95.00	+0.25	0.95
British Share	90.00	+0.25	0.90
British Value	85.00	+0.25	0.85
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British Liability	25.00	+0.25	0.25
British Net Worth	20.00	+0.25	0.20
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BRIEFINGS

□ **Could This Be You?** is a pamphlet introducing self-employment to school and college-leavers who have not yet considered working for themselves as a career. It is part of a programme by **Livewire** — which is sponsored by Shell UK — to encourage more young people to think about a business idea and test their commitment. The booklet examines the implications of starting up and includes young role models with their own businesses and a quiz to test the reader's suitability. Those with a business idea can request one of **Livewire's 314 Business Opportunity Profiles** — fact sheets on setting up enterprises, ranging from ostrich farming to providing bridal services.

□ The DTI has launched a campaign to publicise the growing network of **Business Links**. The £1.2 million first phase will run to December. **Business Links** are local joint ventures between private sector and public sector bodies. They operate a one-stop shop providing access to support services for businesses in England. More than 100 are open and the national target is 200 by the end of the year.

□ **National Westminster Bank** is placing managers to work in small firms in the North East alongside the owners for six weeks to learn the challenges of running and growing a business. The scheme has been developed in conjunction with Durham University Business School and Business Links based in the North East. A second pilot project is planned for next year.

Sewing up a future

By D'ESTE BOND

FRUSTRATED creativity led Margaret Scholefield to accept voluntary redundancy from IBM where she was a high-earning ideas person in multimedia marketing department.

A degree in French from London University had led to France and marriage to a Frenchman, but it was an unpleasant incident that led her, indirectly, to a business idea with a French flavour. She was staying at the home of a woman friend in Provence, when they were subjected to a vicious attack by two local men.

Margaret fled back to England suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Immured at home, she decided to start sewing tablecloths from the Provencal materials she had bought as presents for friends. Then she had the idea of turning her activity into a business.

Sitting at home in Weybridge, Surrey, stitching tablecloths, napkins and quilted tablemats — plus duvet covers, towels and kimonos for colour co-ordinated breakfasts in bed — she achieved a turnover of £26,000 in her first year. Wisely, she diversified early. Scented soaps and toilet waters from Grasse, and Provencal pottery, traditionally made to her own design, added to the range offered by La Provencale, her company.

By selling exclusively at craft fairs and charity fairs, she avoided overheads and advertising and marketing costs. She covered about 30 fairs in a year, all over the country, often getting home late and sewing

until 2am to replenish her stock for next day. "It was physically too much," she says.

Now she plans to make a leap into selling to the trade and expanding the product range.

She spent £7,000 on fairs last year at a minimum cost of £250 a time. This helped her to locate her market, which is in the South, and enabled her to study her customers' tastes. She gave them a wide selection of colours and designs, but always in a co-ordinated collection of matching products. Green turned out to be a good seller in Britain, although less popular in France. She now intends to concentrate her trading on a few trade fairs costing up to £5,000 a stand, to increase her output by using outworkers more and to take on a partner to help to administer the increase in business. She has also taken advice from Surrey Business Support Group and found it useful.

"I go down to Provence several times a year to choose the fabrics myself," she says. Buying large quantities, she drives back with some and the rest is sent on. Transport and packaging costs are minimal. Her main expense has been buying the fabrics — they cost her £6,000 in her first year. She has financed it all from her savings.

"The risk-taking element is the most difficult thing," she says. "With hindsight, I'd never do it again." But having done it, she has no regrets.



Margaret Scholefield with some of her tablecloths and pottery

Phone banking on offer to small firms

By RODNEY HOBSON

TSB is to offer a telephone banking service to business customers within the next 12 months. Pilot studies have already proved successful.

The bank, Britain's sixth largest, introduced telephone banking for personal customers in October. About 80,000 people use the service.

TSB's move is part of an intensified battle for the small business customer among high street banks.

The market has been dominated by NatWest and Barclays, both with nearly 30 per cent of it. Lloyds claims to be gaining market share, and Midland has appointed a head of business banking, Geoff Poulter, to spearhead its push.

A report by the British Chambers of Commerce last month indicated that small firms are reporting improved relationships with their banks. Richard Brown, BCC deputy director-general, said: "This is good news for small firms. It means they are being listened to and their concerns are being addressed. More than half felt that their bankers knew and understood their business."

David Stewart, TSB's head of commercial banking, says the business telephone service will be fully integrated into the branch network rather than be offered as a separate service along the lines of Midland's First Direct subsidiary.

TSB claims 3 per cent of the small business market and says the

share is growing. It has concentrated on niches such as professionals, although it is now broadening its base. Mr Stewart says one in five solicitors, 30 per cent of grant-maintained schools and 12 per cent of doctors bank with TSB.

He said TSB was still the only leading UK bank to offer real-time online banking: it is helping TSB to make inroads into other small business sectors. Any company banking cash from several sources, such as a small retail chain or a charity with several collectors, may want to know how much has been paid in without waiting for returns to be sent to a central office. Mr Stewart added that TSB was the only leading bank to pay interest on business current accounts.



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■ VISUAL ART 1

Last chance to see the Berggruen Collection, but the National Gallery will not be left high and dry



■ VISUAL ART 2

The Tate invites the outsiders in with *Rites of Passage*, a big new show of 'combative' art

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ DANCE

Rasputin proves to be an alfresco disaster for that restless tsar of all ballets, Irek Mukhamedov



■ POP

Finsbury Park goes emerald all over as the annual Fléadh produces some epic performances

Richard Cork celebrates the extension of Heinz Berggruen's magnificent loans to the National Gallery in London

A vision of our century

When the National Gallery first displayed the magnificent Berggruen Collection in January 1991, its arrival was greeted with elation. Here was an outstanding array of paintings, drawings and sculpture, including powerful images by Cézanne, Seurat, Van Gogh, Picasso and Braque. Many of them served as an ideal complement to the collection at Trafalgar Square: the formidable array of Picasso's work pushed the National Gallery far into the 20th century. Heinz Berggruen was a friend of Picasso's in the artist's later years, and the strong representation of his work ranges from youthful Blue Period melancholy to the wild exuberance of his old age.

Now, however, the five-year loan is entering its final phase. Next April, all Berggruen's 20th-century works will be removed. The entire Picasso collection is bound for Berlin on a ten-year loan. Landscapes by Van Gogh and Cézanne will also leave Trafalgar Square, and all those visitors who now enjoy them are bound to feel their loss.

In other ways, though, Berggruen's generous relationship with the National Gallery is not coming to an end. Five Cézannes, including a vibrant view of Mont Sainte-Victoire and a limpid still-life, will remain on loan. So will two superb Seurats: the celebrated small version of *Les Poseuses*, and a luminous late view of *The Channel of Gravelines*. *Grand Fort-Philippe*. The National Gallery hopes to keep them on its walls until the end of the century.

Moreover, Berggruen has permanently enriched the collection by presenting, outright, no fewer than seven of Seurat's exquisite oil studies. The most magnificent gift the gallery has received in recent years, they show a different, more immediate side of an

artist whose most elevated ambitions are represented at Trafalgar Square by his *Bathers at Asnières*. Painted at the age of 24, this astonishingly precocious showpiece was the first of Seurat's monumental canvases. But he also became a master of the small oil panel, and the seven presented by the bountiful Berggruen are all scintillating examples.

Three of them, happily, are studies for the great *Bathers* canvas. Among more than a dozen such preliminary paintings, they have the freshness of pictures produced outdoors. In one, *snorkle* rising from the large factory chimneys at Chichy bespurn the skyline. But their polluting presence is offset by the advent of a rainbow. Arching over the industrial buildings, it seems to confer a blessing on the three figures seated on a foreground river-bank.

Comparison with the final picture reveals how Seurat transformed the scene from a landscape to a canvas dominated by imposing figures. More bathers, as well as a dog and piles of discarded clothing, give the big painting an almost timeless air. The rainbow has disappeared. But the little oil study proves that all this classical, freeze-like solemnity is based on Seurat's lively observation of a particular stretch of the River Seine.

Another panel in the Berggruen gift shows him painting the water with light-saturated brushstrokes, their smoothness contrasted with the stabbing swiftness of the strokes defining the foliage on the banks. No people can be discerned here, but Seurat's fascination with bathers fills a third panel with their forms.

The bowler-hatted man lying on the grass in the large canvas is included here. He seems to be gazing at two youths paddling in the river — one clothed and stooping, the other naked and upright. Neither was included in the final



Les Poseuses (Artist's Models): one of two superb Seurats that will remain in the National Gallery when the Berggruen collection goes elsewhere

version, and the omission of the pale nude is regrettable.

But the seated figure in the foreground eventually became the central bather. In Berggruen's panel, he has the snapshot quality of someone glimpsed and rapidly summarised. So it is fascinating to see how Seurat expanded and ennobled him until he became the statuesque presence whose grave, meditative pose sets the mood for the rest of this awesome painting.

On the right of *Bathers at Asnières* is the island of La Grande Jatte, the subject of Seurat's second monumental painting. Two of the small panels in the Berggruen gift offer insights into the genesis of this consummate canvas, now reigning over the Post-Impressionist rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago. The first concentrates on a stretch of land in the distance. The restless, freely applied brush-

marks, a revelation for anyone who associates Seurat solely with the systematic dots of Pointillism, suggest that he painted it in the open air. Four figures stand motionless among the trees. But they are tiny silhouettes, almost lost in the greater drama created by the contrast between the shadowy island and the shimmering sunlit water beyond.

For Seurat, however, exploration of the site was only the beginning. He ended up populating the *Grande Jatte* with a profusion of figures, each one relishing the locale on a fine Sunday afternoon. They are, for the most part, smarter than the working-class bathers in the earlier canvas.

And in the second Berggruen study, which enlarges its focus to encompass nearly all the land in the Chicago canvas, a top-hatted gentleman stands erect in the foreground. Brushed in very lightly, he has an almost spectral air, and Seurat's decision to place him in deep

shadow gives him a sinister look. But nothing disrupts the tranquillity of the woman and child beyond him, or the other substantial figure seated by a tree. They seem in thrall to the calm of this island sanctuary.

Social satire enters the final canvas, most notably in the

in a sparkling study called *The Morning Walk*. But she is incidental to Seurat's main concern here, as his thickly loaded brush celebrates the intoxicating dazzle of light falling brilliantly on water. The lady could well feel overcome by the sensuous richness of the scene around her.

The most enchanting manifestations of his response to the French landscape occur in the series he executed on the Channel coast. The Berggruen collection contains one of the last of these consummate marine views. In *The Channel of Gravelines*, *Grand Fort-Philippe*, produced only a year before he died at 31, nothing is permitted to disturb the spellbound atmosphere of the harbour in strong sunlight. Diminutive figures can just be detected, standing on the path beyond the thin strip of water. But they are wholly subservient to the overall scene, where emptiness takes on a highly charged potency of its own.

buildings, this picture is extraordinarily bare. Within the austerity, however, Seurat produces one of his most beguiling images. The superbly distilled use of dots in the sky is alive to the slightest shift in the range of blues. They gather with special dramatic intensity around the flagpole, and give way to the palest violet as the harbour stretches out towards the sea.

Most remarkable of all, though, is the lower half of the picture: a mosaic of predominantly light yellow dots and strokes. The effect is irresistible. Radiance pulses from this canvas, making it the most purely luminous painting in the whole collection. If the National Gallery could purchase this sublime painting from Berggruen, along with the equally magical *Les Poseuses*, then Seurat would be represented at Trafalgar Square with a splendour unmatched anywhere.

Richard Cork reviews the Venice Biennale in The Times tomorrow

The oils show a more immediate side of Seurat

stiff profile of the lady who joins the top-hatted gentleman and parades with her parasol and pet monkey. None of Seurat's dissatisfaction with the pomposity of bourgeois life affects the Berggruen oil studies, though. A well-dressed woman does, admittedly, perambulate along the river-bank

Critic gives an anatomy lesson

The shotgun marriage between the Tate and contemporary art continues with the gallery's first independently curated theme show, *Rites of Passage*, which opens this week, features work by 11 international artists. The critic Stuart Morgan, a supporter of young artists who has always regarded himself as being outside the art establishment, was invited to co-curate the show with the Tate's Frances Morris.

In the past, Morgan has been quite rude about the gallery and its director, Nicholas Serota. But all has been forgiven. In Morgan and Morris the Tate has chosen a complementary duo to select and stage-manage its grandest ever contemporary exhibition.

Morris says the two began by drawing up a list of all the artists, British and international, they could think of who were working with "the body". "We narrowed it down to 20 or 30 we felt extremely interested in," she says. "At that stage we realised that 'the body' wasn't a subject and threw it out. Talking about these artists we found it wasn't there; the work was rooted in something else." But if "the body" itself was a bit of a red herring, the body as a subject does work as a general shorthand for art that is not necessarily conceptual or self-referential.

"The art we have chosen is combative," Morgan says. "It's thoroughly emotional, and I think if there is one thing that is

A sniper has turned gamekeeper to co-curate the Tate's imminent new show, says Sacha Craddock

going to come out of this, it's the idea that cool minimalism and cool conceptualism are things of the past. People want something else." He says he wants people to cry.

The mind/body split is a bit simplistic, but Morris hopes to represent the growing emergence both in Britain and abroad of work that "deals with issues, subjects like the ageing of the flesh, illness and sexual desire". Morgan, however, adds that "none of the work in the exhibition is purely 'issue-based'".

The notion of a dramatic experience in an exhibition that plunges the visitor from warmth to cold fear, on a physical journey from darkness into light and back again, is not going to be to everybody's taste. "We wanted to do it in a rather theatrical way and give the viewer or visitor a journey that had different flavours, experiences and climates," Morris says. "Rather like a symphony or mass that has a range of

moods." Morgan describes the exhibition as "a succession of tableaux" through which you are encouraged to travel.

It is impossible to categorise the artists included. The list is impressive in its range and breadth. There are young and old, living and dead. The very first experience in the show will be a frieze of photographs of the artist John Coplans's naked body — "A hairy, fat, overweight man," says Morgan, "who poses himself for someone else to take the pictures". The second will be an opportunity to take a filmic journey through the internal offices of Mona Hatoum's body.

There is also work by Louise Bourgeois, who Morgan says is "the greatest sculptor in the world, possibly the greatest artist. She does not stop breaking new territory, and she is 80-whatever years old." This is shown alongside the quiet, barely known work of Hamad Buti, who died very young from AIDS.

"Our lives are very difficult," Morgan says, "and in many cases now they are very short. What we want people to realise when they walk around the show is that we are all on our own and we have to make our own way. There is nobody here to help us, and the general problems are problems of life, death, and who you are in the universe. For me it is the kind of art that doesn't have a name."

Rites of Passage is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) until Sep 3



Life, the universe and everything: Miroslaw Balka's *Remembrance of the First Communion* (1985)

DANCE: Debra Craine reviews *Rasputin*, a new ballet commissioned by Irek Mukhamedov for the Hampton Court Palace Festival

Making a mess of the monk

chilly Friday night to see an evening of ballet under the stars. On stage Mukhamedov was the star, in fact the only star of *Rasputin*, in which he played all seven roles — including two women. The ballet is based on the real-life story of the Siberian peasant and *soi-disant* mystic who exercised a hypnotic control over the Tsar and his family. Rasputin's life was punctuated by sure-fire dramatic flares — sex, violence and jealousy — and in 1916 he came to a gloriously nasty end. Hollywood could not have devised a more theatrically ripe scenario.

So who is Natalia Volkova that she managed to produce such tosh? According to the programme, she "created solos and duets for many of the leading dancers of the Kirov Ballet" and worked with the Russian Olympic Skating Team. After leaving Russia in 1988 she became the choreographer for the French Figure Skating Team. In figure skating circles, at least, her credentials are impeccable.

Maybe that is the problem. Those who choreograph routines for competitive skaters only have to stretch their creativity to four or five minutes. Constructing an hour-

long ballet — even for one person — requires different skills. Volkova would appear to have no understanding of ballet's narrative prerequisites. Her storytelling was a mess even reading the cast of characters failed to delineate their presence on stage. Events unfolded in a confused and muddy swirl. Even worse was the tape recording of Mukhamedov reciting a disjointed and ludicrous synopsis of each character's motives — Alexandra fretting about her haemophilic son, the mad monk himself confessing his own debauchery. Volkova's idea of choreography

consists of the obvious coarse, heavy-torsoed moves signalled Rasputin's desperation, a feline stretch of the back his feral alertness. Mukhamedov's body power was impressive, but too out of control to colour what little the choreography had to offer. The music was unspeakably bad, a mishmash of mournful Russian basses and pompous synthesized rock. The design comprised six costumes draped over firing-range targets — and yes, Irek did wear a frock.

The evening began with another premiere, Michael Corder's *Symphonic Dance* (to Rachmaninov), a pas de deux which flattered both Mukhamedov and Lesley Collier and made one wish they had more opportunities to dance together.



One-man show: Mukhamedov plays all the roles in *Rasputin*

SACHA CRADDOCK

David Tremlett at Liliane and Michel Durand-Dessert 28 rue de Lappe 75011 (48.06.92.23) until July 29.
Valerie Belin, Marielle Paul, Agnes Propeck at Galerie Alain Guthart, 47 rue de Lappe 75011 (47.00.32.10) until June 17.
In *Corpus Machina* at Espace d'Art Vivant, Palais 13, rue Kéroul 75011 (48.06.36.70) until July 29.
Stephan Mehl and Mark Mohr, Gilles Peyroulet, 7 rue de Bellevue 75003 (42.74.69.20) until July 8.

0800 282266

From firework finales to teddy bears' picnics, enjoy the best open air concerts and plays in beautiful settings around Britain

Take a friend to a play or concert for 20p

The summer months bring a wealth of music and theatre into the open air and this week we offer readers the chance to enjoy some of the very best performances and take a friend for just 20p, the cost of *The Times*.

You can choose from concerts with spectacular firework finales, picnic concerts where everybody arrives in costume, productions of plays by Shakespeare, Shaw and Oscar Wilde, and even a Teddy Bears' Picnic. 1995 marks the Centenary of the National Trust and many of the events on offer take place in the magnificent settings of their most popular properties.

Ever since Handel wrote music to accompany a royal fireworks display the two have gone hand in hand. Enjoy fireworks accompanied by the music of Handel, Tchaikovsky, and even the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

The International Eisteddfod in Llangollen was the venue for Pavarotti's British debut in

1955. Spot the stars of the future with tickets for both competition days and evening concerts included in our offer.

Henley Festival has long been a highlight of the summer season with its floating stage on the River Thames. Dust off your dinner jacket and enjoy a night out.

Where better to see a play by Bernard Shaw than than Shaw's Corner in Ayot St Lawrence, his home which is now a National Trust property. There are also plays in London at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and Cannizaro Park in Wimbledon as well as Killerton House in Exeter, Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire and Warwick Castle.

Whatever you choose to see, wherever you choose to go, you can be sure of a fantastic evening in a spectacular setting and with our special offer you can take a friend for just 20p when you buy a full priced ticket.

Your choice of venue

BEDFORDSHIRE

Mentmore Towers, near Leighton Buzzard (01865 864466). Big Band Jazz and Fireworks: Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Syd Lawrence Orchestra, Chris Smith and his String of Pearls Orchestra. July 7, 6pm: £18.

BERKSHIRE

Basildon Park, Pangbourne (01494 522234). Gilbert and Sullivan Lanternlight Gala: Dress as a Gilbert and Sullivan character - prize for best picnic. 20p ticket does not include lantern. August 20, 7.30pm: £16.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Claydon House, Winslow (01494 522234). English Chamber Orchestra performs Purcell, Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel: Lanternlight concert. £14 tickets available on the night, does not include lantern. June 17, 7.45pm: £14. Stowe Landscape Gardens, Buckingham (01280 823334). Band of the Life Guards and Stowe Opera Orchestra: 18th-century costume. July 15, 6.30pm: £15.

CHESHIRE

Grosvenor Park, Chester (01244 341200). Gala - Fireworks Concert: Manchester Camera plays Vivaldi, Bach, Purcell and Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. July 14, 8pm: £12. Jazz In The Park: Pasadena Roof Orchestra and Terry Lightfoot and his Band. July 15, 7.30pm: £10.

Tatton Park, near Knutsford (01865 864466). Midsummer Mozart with Fireworks: Picnic jazz followed by Northern Symphony Orchestra. June 24, 6pm: £16, children £8.

Big Band Fireworks Spectacular: Jim Bowen with The Beverley Sisters, Pasadena Roof Orchestra and Syd Lawrence Orchestra. June 25, 6pm: £16, children £8.

DERBYSHIRE

Buxton Opera House (01298 72050). Philip Langridge. July 13, 8pm: £14, £18. Prince of Wales Brass. July 26, 7.30pm: £14, £18.

DEVON

Killerton House, Exeter (01392 881345). Cost fan tutti. August 25, 7.30pm: £6.50. Merry Wives of Windsor. June 23, 7.30pm: £5.

DORSET

Brownsea Island (01747 841098). Jazz Night: Gerry Stooks and The High Society Jazz Band. June 23, 7.30pm: £7 including ferry.

Kingston Lacy, Wimborne Minster (01747 841098). Bournemouth Sinfonietta with popular classics and firework finale. July 14, 8pm: £10. Acker Bilk and His Paramount Jazz Band. August 4, 8pm: £10.

HAMPSHIRE

Montisfont Abbey, Romsey (01572 451590). Montisfont Revels: An evening of magic, music and dance with sculpture and fireworks. June 25, 26, 27, 7pm: £13.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Shaw's Corner, Ayot St Lawrence (01494 522234). Candida by Bernard Shaw. July 21, 22, 23, 6.30pm: £7. Hatfield Forest, Bishop's Stortford (01279 870678).

Two Sopranos: Duets by Mozart and Puccini, songs by Strauss. June 17, 8pm: £7. The Synchron Trio: Weber, Scott Joplin. June 18, 8pm: £7. Hengrave String Quartet: Beethoven, Ravel, Mozart. July 15, 8pm: £7. Reeds United. Oboe, clarinet and bassoon play Mozart, Beethoven, Ibert, Francaix. July 16, 8pm: £7.

LANCASHIRE

Leighton Hall, near Carnforth (01865 864466). Last Night of the Proms with Lesley Garrett. July 1, 6pm: £16, children £8.

Big Band Fireworks Spectacular: Jim Bowen with Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen, The Beverley Sisters and the Syd Lawrence Orchestra. July 2, 6pm: £16, children £8.

MIDDLESEX

Osterley Park, Isleworth (01894 522234). Glenn Miller Orchestra. Prize for best wartime-themed picnic. August 5, 7.30pm: £12.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Newstead Abbey, Linby (0115 948 2626/2525). Hamlet. June 28, 29, 7.30pm: £6.50. La Boheme. July 5, 7.30pm: £12.

Radley College, near Abingdon (01865 864466). Mostly Mozart: Picnic jazz with Acker Bilk followed by London Mozart Players and fireworks. July 14, 6pm: £18, children £9.

Jazz, Fireworks and Dancing: Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band, Pasadena Roof Orchestra. July 16, 5.30pm: £18, children £9.

Fireworks Classics: Picnic Jazz with Acker Bilk followed by the Wren Orchestra with classical favourites Dvorak. July 21, 6pm: £18, children £9.

Last Night Opera Proms Gala: Lesley Garrett, Bonaventura Botone with the Wren Orchestra. July 23, 6pm: £20, children £10.

Fireworks Classics: The Philharmonia Orchestra with Christopher Warren-Green. July 28, 6pm: £18, children £9.

Last Night Opera Proms Picnic Ball: Syd Lawrence Orchestra, Lesley Garrett and Bonaventura Botone. The Philharmonia Orchestra and firework finale. Dress black tie. July 29, 6pm: £25, children £12.

Teddy Bears Picnic: Bring a teddy, a picnic and all the family. July 30, 3pm: £10, children £5, children under 4 free.

Concert: Lichfield Cathedral Choir performs Florilegium, I Paggiolini and Purcell plus Judith Bingham's A Lichfield Mystery (new commission). July 9, 7.30pm: £10.

Nettle and Maricham (two pianos) perform Mozart, Bartok, Holst, Britten, Grainger, Bernstein. July 11, 7.30pm: £7. Sinfonia 21 with Ian Bostridge (tenor) performs John Caskin. Britten, Beethoven. July 12, 7.30pm: £14.

Sinfonia 21 Ensemble performs Mozart, Tippett. July 13, 7.30pm: £7. Barbara Thompson, saxophone, and the Medici String Quartet perform Kurt Weill's From Berlin to Broadway. July 15, 7.30pm: £8.

Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds (01284 769505). National Trust Centenary Spectacular: Les Arts Saufs (trapeze from France), Dadadad (drums from Italy). July 28, 29, 7pm: £10. Spitalfields Market Opera performs Mozart and Salieri. August 12, 7pm: £12.50.

Surrey Claremont Landscape Garden, Esher (01372 459950). Fascinating Rhythm: Gershwin and big band music. Chris Allen Orchestra and Singers. July 16, 8pm: £9. Claremont Fete Champetre: A majestic night of music, dance, theatre, fireworks and fancy dress. July 12, 7pm: £12.

Clandon Park, Guildford (01372 451590). Kia Ora New Zealand: Ngati Ramana London Maori Club. July 2, 7.30pm: £8. Hatchlands Park, Guildford (01372 451590). Brass and Bows: Nemo Brass Quintet and Bow Belles Cello Quartet. Popular classics from Telemann to the Teddy Bears Picnic. August 11, 7.30pm: £11. Reigate Priory Park (01737 765547). Royal Philharmonic Firework Spectacular: RPO with New City Jazzmen, Viva Flamenco. July 30, 6.30pm: £12.50, children £7.

Mr Bilk Meets Mr Ball: Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball Jazz evening. July 28, 7.30pm: £7. Ham House, Richmond (01372 451590). English Music on a Summer Evening: Capital String Orchestra with Susannah Simons. July 1, 8pm: £12.50 (seated) £10 (grass). Sing-along-a-Century: London Pops Orchestra. July 2, 8pm: £12.50 (seated), £10 (grass).

Henry Purcell Tercentenary

SHROPSHIRE

Ludlow Castle (01584 872150). Sir Arthur Sullivan Returns to Earth: Scenes from Gilbert and Sullivan with Tim Brooke-Taylor. June 25, 8pm: £8-£12.

Michael Ball and the BBC Big Band. July 2, 9pm: £13. The Bootleg Beatles. July 9, 8.30pm: £12.50.

Weston Park, Shifnal (01952 850207). Last Night at the Proms: Midland Symphony Orchestra. July 15, 7.30pm: £13.

Jools In The Park: Jools Holland and his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra. July 16, 7pm: £13.

SOMERSET

Barrington Court Garden, near Ilminster (01747 841098). Opera Brava Gala Evening. June 24, 7.30pm: £10.

Montacute House, near Yeovil (01747 841098). The Montacute Joust: 15th-century Military and Social Camp Life. September 2, 3.30pm: £5, children £3.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Lichfield Cathedral (01543 257557). Shura Cherkassky (piano) performs Handel, Liszt, Chopin. July 8, 7.30pm: £9.

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Good music, good food and good company on the grass at Kenwood

Great concerts in beautiful places

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Henry Purcell Tercentenary

TYNE AND WEAR

Gibside, Newcastle upon Tyne (01207 542253). Overtures, Arias and Fireworks: Thomas Allen with Northern Sinfonia. June 24, 8pm: £12.50 (£14 on day).

WARWICKSHIRE

Warwick Castle (01926 496277). The Comedy of Errors. July 6, 7, 8, 7.30pm: £8. A Man For All Seasons. July 13, 14, 15, 7.30pm: £8.

WEST SUSSEX

Arundel Castle (01903 883690). Glenn Miller Orchestra. August 26, 7.15pm: £5. At The End Of The Pier: Variety show with Ian Liston and Peter John. August 27, 7.15pm: £7.

Kenny Ball Jazz Night. August 28, 7.15pm: £7. Nymans Garden, Handcross, Haywards Heath (01372 451590). Brass and Roses: Brass music at the height of the rose season. June 30, July 1, 7.30pm (gates open 6.30pm): £10.

Petworth Park, Petworth (01798 343748). Film Classics: Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra presented by Paul Ross. June 23, 8pm (gates open 6.30pm): £10. Animal Favourites presented by Johnny Morris: Wren Symphony Orchestra. June 25, 1.30pm (gates open noon): £8, children £4.

VE Day Concert and Street Party: Opus One 40's Big Band. June 25, 8pm: £9.

WILTSHIRE

Avebury Manor Garden, Avebury (01747 841098). Opera Brava Gala Evening. August 19, 7.30pm: £10. Dyrham Park, Chippenham (01747 841098). 100 Years of Jazz and Dance: Acker Bilk and His Paramount Jazz Band, Stan Tracey Octet, Jiving Lindy Hoppers, Blue and the Rude Tubes, Roger Bernet & The Blue Notes. June 30, 7pm: £10.

100 Years of Jazz: Ronnie Scott Quartet, Georgie Fame & The Blue Flames, Jiving Lindy Hoppers, Alan Eldson & His Allstar Band. July 1, 7pm: £10. Laycock Abbey, near Chippenham (01249 730042). Laycock Abbey Chamber Orchestra performs music by JS Bach. July 28, 7.30pm: £7.50, children £5. Picnic facility £2.50 each.

Petronella Dittmer (violin) and Richard Coulson (fortepiano) perform Mozart on period instruments. July 29, 10.45am: £7.50, children £5.

Petronella Dittmer (violin and soprano) Richard Coulson (organ and harpsichord) perform music from early plain-song to present day. July 29, 7.30pm: £7.50, children £5. Picnic facility £2.50 each.

Come and Sing Hymns. July 30, 7.30pm: £5. Stourhead Garden, Stourton, near Mere (01747 841098). Fete Champetre: A hundred years of entertainment in song, music, dance and fireworks. Bring a picnic and dress as your hero of the century. July 19, 20, £12.

YORKSHIRE The Old Hall, Grassington, near Skipton (01756 752096). Skipton Brass Band. June 18, 2.30pm: £5.

Woodleigh Hall, Langton near Malton (01653 600666 ext 268). Festival Wind Ensemble with Alan Pearson. July 29, 3pm: £3.50.

London Kenwood Lakeside (Ticketmaster 0171-413 1412). London Schools Symphony

Orchestra performs Vive La France. July 15, 7.30pm: £9.50. London Festival Orchestra and Chorus performs Carmina Burana. July 29, 7.30pm: £7.

English Sinfonia performs Beethoven Piano Concerto No 5 (The Emperor) with John Lill. Symphony No 3, Eroica. August 5, 7.30pm: £7.

Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park (0171-486 2431). A Midsummer Night's Dream. June 20, July 3, 11, August 28, 11.50pm: £11.

Richard III. June 26, 8pm: £11. The Music Man. July 27, 2.30pm: £15, August 3, 8pm: £11.

Cannizaro Park Open Air Theatre, Wimbledon (0181-540 0362). The Importance of Being Earnest. July 18, 19, 7.30pm: £10.

A Midsummer Night's Dream. July 24, 25, 7.30pm: £10. The Magic Flute. August 1, 2, 7.30pm: £11.

Romeo and Juliet. August 8, 9, 8pm: £10. The Boyfriend. August 15, 16, £10.

WALES

International Musical Eisteddfod, Llangollen (01798 861501). Festival of Celtic Music and Dance. July 4, 7.30pm: £9.

Concert: Folk Dancers, Youth Choirs, Folk Instrumentalists. July 5, 7.30pm: £9. Competitions: Children's Choirs, Vocal Solo, Folk Song Solo, International Young Instrumentalist of the Year, Folk Song Groups. July 6, 9am-5.30pm: £9.

Concert: Stephen Kovacevich with Children's Choirs and Folk Dancers. July 6, 7.30pm: £9.

Competitions: Adult Solo, Mixed Choirs, Chamber Choirs. July 7, 9am-5.30pm: £9.

Concert: Emma Johnson (clarinet), Folk Dancers, Mixed Choir, Chamber Choir. July 7, 7.30pm: £9.

Competitions: Female Choirs, Male Choirs, International Young Singer of the Year. July 8, 9am-5.30pm: £9.

Academy of St Martin in the Fields performs Britten, Shostakovich, Barber, Dvorak. August 3, 8pm: £7.50.

Festival Finale: Tchaikovsky, Handel. August 4, 8pm: £7.50.

Fishguard Music Festival (01348 873612). BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka performs Mendelssohn, Gershwin, Rachmaninov. July 23, 7pm: £9, £6.

Deane String Quartet performs Mozart, Schumann. Haydn. July 24, 8pm: £6.

Humphrey Lyttelton. July 25, 8pm: £5, £6. Swingle Singers. July 26, 8pm: £7, £5.

Legrand Ensemble performs Purcell. July 27, 8pm: £6.

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under Carl Davis performs Haydn, Rossini, Beethoven. July 28, 8pm: £9, £6.

GLAMORGAN St Donat's Arts Centre, Llantwit Major (01446 794848). Beyond the Border: Wales International Storytelling Festival. June 30, 7.30-11pm, July 1, 2 noon-11pm; Whole week-end tickets £25. Tickets must be booked before June 28.

SCOTLAND BERWICKSHIRE Ayton Castle, Ayton (0141-339 2708). Gustav Penyo (piano) performs Beethoven's Appassionata and Pathétique Sonatas, Chopin and Liszt. July 4, 8pm: £5.

Susanne Stanzel (violin), Claire Haslin (piano) perform Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata, Mozart, Fauré. July 5, 8pm: £5. Christopher Van Kampen (cello), Gustav Penyo (piano) perform Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Beethoven, Ginastera, Colin Matthews. July 6, 8pm: £5.

Sandra Porter (mezzo soprano) performs Beethoven Scottish Songs, Schumann, Duparc, Fauré, Poulenc. July 7, 8pm: £5.

Trios for violin, cello and piano: Beethoven, Haydn, Mendelssohn. July 8, 8pm: £5. Gala Concert: Beethoven and other works. July 9, 8pm: £5.

N IRELAND CO. DOWN Rowallane Garden, Saintfield (01238 510721). Hot Jazz on a Warm Summer Night: Martello Jazz Band, Patsy Melarkey, Ulster Jazz Band. June 17, 8pm: £5.

Castle Ward, Strangford (01238 510721). Music and Fireworks: Ulster Orchestra. August 5, 7.30pm: £15.

ISLE OF MAN Manzanar International Festival, Erin Arts Centre (01624 832662). Northern Chamber Orchestra performs Brahms Sextet in G Major. July 2, 6pm: £6.

Tommy Reilly (harmonica), Judith Christian (piano). July 3, 8pm: £8.

St Matthews Church: Eleanor Shimmitt, Jeffrey Lawton, Ian Cross. Festival Choir perform Elgar's Dream of Gerontius. July 9, 2.30pm: £5.



Get all dressed up for an evening at Royal Claremont

The Merry Wives of Windsor. July 21, 7.30pm: £6.50.

The Hound of the Baskervilles. Promenade performance unsuitable for those with walking difficulties. August 2, 7.30pm: £7.50.

OXFORDSHIRE

Henley Festival (01491 41353). Your Henley Festival ticket allows access to all seven events taking place each evening with a reserved seat in the covered Grandstand for the main concert on the floating stage. Philip Dukes (viola) and Sophia Rahman (piano) give a short recital each evening and there are exhibitions of art and sculpture. Although not compulsory, recommended dress is black tie.

Hollywood Classics Orchestra plus Marion Montgomery, Trinity College Swing Band, River Thames Laser Light Show. July 6, 6.30pm: £23.

Travelling Opera plus Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen, London Mozart Players Chamber Ensemble, Marionette Theatre, River Thames Laser Light Show. July 6, 6.30pm: £21.

Katia and Marielle Labèque with the City of London Sinfonia plus comic opera, steel band, Playing with Fire with Alasdair Malloy. July 7, 6.30pm: £31.

How To Book

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APPLICATION FORM

This application form with four differently numbered tokens attached entitles the bearer to one ticket for 20p when another is purchased at the price printed in *The Times* offer for the same concert. Only one 20p ticket per application unless otherwise stated in the offer.

The tokens are valid only for the performance stated in the offer and cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other. All



THEATRE

Jane Coles's new *Crossing the Equator* offers tepid drama about emigrants heading towards Australia



OPERA

Back in the hunchback role: John Rawnsley offers a veteran view of *Rigoletto* in Hackney

THE TIMES ARTS



TONIGHT 1

Final week for Simon Russell Beale in the superb Wyndhams staging of *The Duchess of Malfi*



TONIGHT 2

Aldeburgh pays tribute to Henry Purcell with a fine programme of songs and string music

Still-life on the ocean wave

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale
on an energetic but unmoving portrait of postwar emigrants

This is the second play Jane Coles has written for the Bush, and the second time she has made enjoyably quirky use of its postage-stamp stage. You could almost smell the municipal chlorines splashing up from her *Backstroke in a Crowded Pool*, which occurred precisely where the title suggested.

The setting of her *Crossing the Equator* is a finer carrying emigrants from the dowdy Britain of 1949 to a brave new life in Australia. Just a twist of the portholes that the designer, Robert Jones, has placed at the back, and a cabin effortlessly becomes a deck or one of those dull tourist-class halls in which gruesome fancy-dress parties are held.

But having presented us with this creaking tub, and peopled it with characters as firmly drawn as those in *Crowded Pool*, does Coles make full enough use of the possibilities that ensue? Not really. The plot is a bit thin and the tension, such as it is, has a forced, slightly desperate feel.

Crossing the Equator

We meet only two small families, each headed (the correct word in those days) by a man more eager to get away from England than get to Australia. Jack (Peter Copley) feels deeply defensive about the unholy part he played in the war, which he spent organising the movement of soft drinks. Derek (Paul Ritter) married young and, thanks to mother-in-law problems, has yet properly to consummate the bond. This naturally troubles his bride, Kay (Sophie Stanton). Similarly, Jack is ill at ease with his wife Vera (Tessa Peake-Jones), who has brought a balky stepdaughter (Sarah Howe) and some oppressive attitudes from her first marriage.

That's fine, as are the shifts of mood that occur as the 12,000-mile boat slowly progresses. The characters pass from excitement and optimism to homesickness and unease as safe old England gets further and further away and their lack of control over their own lives more and more evident. They are spat at in



Kay (Sophie Stanton) and Vera (Tessa Peake-Jones) wave goodbye to all that

Aden and sneered at in India. The storm that hits them as they cross the Equator leaves them singing the famous hymn about peril on the sea in bizarre propitiation of Neptune, who is cheerfully distributing certificates somewhere offshore. Copley's Jack, the most troubled of them all, has a sort of mini-breakdown in which he manages to persuade himself not only that he will never survive the trip but that his cabin steward, Philip Glenister, is spying on him on behalf of Australian immigration. Here is the only real conflict Coles manages to inject into the evening, and it is very plausible, especially when the less paranoid passengers start projecting their own prejudices and insecurities on a steward whose only faults are that he acts too cool and sounds too middle-class.

OPERA: John Rawnsley is not the only star in a vigorous production, says Barry Millington

Young talent and a voice of experience

THE philosophy of the Opera Company is as straightforward as its name: to present talented young professionals performing opera in English. And once again, with its production of *Rigoletto* — paired at the Hackney Empire with *The Magic Flute* for one night each, prior to an ambitious tour of the South — it has shown what enormously high standards can be achieved at this level.

Young aspiring professionals may be the norm for the Opera Company, but the norm in the title role is anything but a typo: John Rawnsley is a *Rigoletto* veteran, having sung the part more than 200 times over a period of 17 years. Perhaps there is not quite the fullness of tone or the fire in the belly that there once was, but it is still an impressive and convincing assumption. With the encouragement of the Lithuanian director, Dalia Izbukaite, Rawnsley explores the more vulnerable side of the character. The

Rigoletto

evening drew on, a hint of aristocratic arrogance entered his voice. Michael Keegan is fine as the Duke of Mantua, and Colin Iveson initially creates a strong impression as Montreuil, but it is undermined by an unfortunate production detail. The horror of his daughter's violation is rubbed in by the thrusting under his nose of what looks like a female undergarment. So far so good, but to have him then brandish

the offending article while uttering the curse is a little difficult to take. Other details are well observed: the men's club atmosphere of the court, the sadistic macho taunting of one victim after another, with no one — least of all Rigoletto — emerging in a saintly light. The representation of the stormy night at the inn stretches credibility somewhat, particularly when midnight strikes on a brightly lit stage. The orchestral playing is exemplary. The clean ensemble and above-average tuning. Instrumental detail is well realised, whether the scurrying flute in the storm scene or the woodwind flecks and pizzicato strings in the Quartet.

In passages like this, one wished conductor Roy Laughlin would relax his grip a little and allow phrases to breathe, but in general his energetic propulsion of Verdi's score is sympathetic also to its more intimate moments.

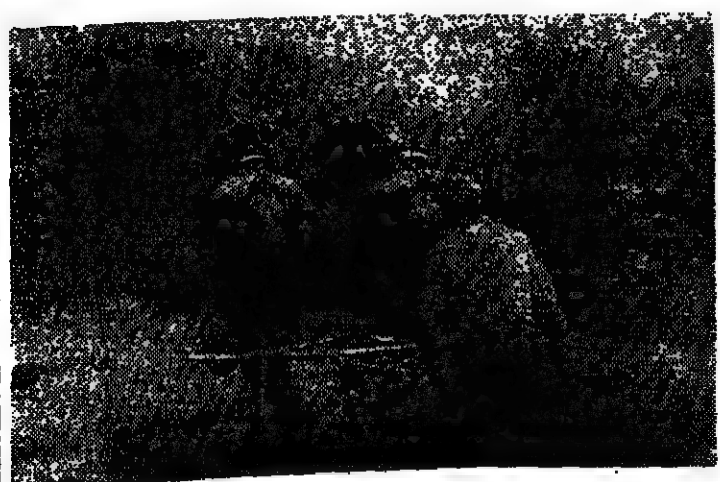
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Closing date for applications: 14th July 1995.

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LAW

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Do-it-yourself justice

Lord Woolf this week outlines civil justice reforms, with plans to expand the small claims court. How does it work?

How can we design a process to settle disputes which enforces law, preserves the integrity of society, protects the rights of litigants and defendants, gives one a sense of having had a day in court and protects the interests of others involved in the court process as speedily and cheaply as possible?

Does the small claims jurisdiction try to achieve all this, and should it? Or should it merely be, as some see it, an informal means of settling claims which involve comparatively small sums of money?

The small claims court is not a separate court. It is a method for handling disputes involving up to £1,000—Lord Woolf is expected to recommend raising it to £3,000.

Nor does it handle enforcement of judgments. It is designed for the small "one-shot" litigant rather than the big "repeat player", without formality and the need for a lawyer. It handles only defended claims, which means it never sees the huge number of small claims that end up as default judgments and are processed by computers at the Summons Production Centre in Northampton or County Court Bulk Centre.

More than 2 million of these are for claims for less than £1,000, which are, you could say, being missed by the small claims court. So the court is only for those who bring or defend a claim.

But how accessible is it, and should it be more user-friendly? The National Lottery has 10,000 outlets. Tyneside (population several hundred thousand) has four county courts. And where are the small claims courts, in Newcastle? How many buses and metros go past the vast post-modern edifice that houses the small claims court on the quayside? Justice for all would see a small claims court office in every prime retail area, perhaps every post office. Perhaps the courts could offer on-the-spot, consensual jurisdiction or a telephone e-mail instant service?

Where are the advertisements... "Got a dispute? The small claims court is here to help? And what happens when people have started their case? Are they educated at school on how to handle claims or is there an advisory service? Rarely. Can the court staff help? Rarely. Not on legal questions. There is a small range of leaflets, not always in stock. Can I watch a video or sit in on a hearing? No.

The rulebook provides questions and answers in this kind of form. Q: How does my case get to the small claims



Donovan Winter with some of the documents he needed for the case he brought under the small claims procedure

A LITIGANT'S STORY

When I filed a case in August 1993 against my insurance company for refusing to meet my claim for burglary, I expected settlement in 60 days. The sum was below £1,000 and qualified under "small claims", a simplified, inexpensive way of resolving disputes, we are told. So one might expect a speedy resolution. The reality was the reverse.

I was committed to leaving the country in November so asked for a hearing "before the end of October". I heard on September 9 that the district judge had ordered the case to be transferred to Southampton—because the defendants' office was there and the law says that hearings must take place within a defendant's territory, if they so choose. Thus you can have plaintiffs chasing all over Britain to pursue a legitimate case—if they do not abandon it.

However, upon appeal to the court, and with the agreement of the defendants' solicitors based in London, a preliminary hearing was finally set down in West London Court for October 25.

The district judge agreed for the case to be held there and set out an order for a full and proper defence to be filed within 21 days, followed by discovery 14 days thereafter. When I had received no written confirmation of this order by

November 16, I again visited the court, only to be told that no such order had been made and, moreover, the judge denied making one. I protested, and then wrote down the terms of the order—duly confirmed by the defendants' solicitor.

I was finally informed that "arbitration" would be heard on 24 June 1994—to accommodate my absence abroad. Having received neither a "full and proper defence" nor any "discovery" I duly departed on December 8, informing both court and defence solicitors. Little did I guess that the solicitors would immediately file in court for the plaintiff to fully plead his case on January 10, knowing that I could not be there.

Such tactics are, of course, stock-in-trade: the intent to have this case set aside in "my failure to comply" was obvious. I knew nothing of the hearing until I received a copy of the order from the court in January. I learnt that the case had been "stayed until May 14" for the plaintiff to file "proper particulars of his claim". I thought I had already done this. As for the hearing set down for June 24—the court said it had no record of it.

Back in London, I again presented myself at the court in July to be told I would now have to refile the case. I did so and a summons was served on the defendants' solicitors on July 13. When no answer was received within the statutory

21 days, upon the advice of the clerk of the court, a warrant for execution was issued on August 12 and dispatched to the bailiff in Southampton for collection.

Over at last? Well, no. A month later I had heard nothing. I telephoned the bailiff to ask when I could expect payment and was told that the insurance company had filed for judgment to be set aside in Southampton. The whole process had begun again. Thus what should be a speedy simple process is clogged by its own bureaucracy.

The case dragged on for several more months, with numerous applications for release of documents, missed deadlines by the other side and offers to settle rejected. Finally last week, the case came to court, after almost two years, with the other side represented by a barrister.

The judge was sympathetic and backed my bringing of the claim. But—on strict interpretation of my policy—he ruled against me. I accept the ruling but it would have been more welcome 18 months ago. As for the contest, there was no level playing court: a trained advocate against a layman is like matching Agassi against a club player. Perhaps lawyers should be excluded from the small claims court.

DONOVAN WINTER

League tables? Lawyers always win

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has floated the idea of league tables for solicitors based on their success rates. This raises intriguing possibilities. At the top end of the scale, the right decision in *Megabank plc v. Giantbank plc* means that Linklaters United wins the championship and a place in Europe next year. At the other end, a dodgy decision in *Snodgrass and Bloggs* are relegated and will be practising in the Fred the Newsagent Parking on Double Yellow Lines League next season. As a result, the office manager gets sacked and their star advocate leaves to join newly promoted high street rivals, Speedy & Co., who are able to offer a better standard of work in the Acme Brewery Affray League. Meanwhile, there is nail-biting tension on Merseyside as four local firms fight it out in the end of season play-off. Increasing numbers of advocates are sent out of court for dissent and ungentlemanly conduct.

It is easy to pour scorn on ideas emanating from the Lord Chancellor's Department. What next, we ask? Judges' keep-fit classes? Singalong sessions for solicitors? But we should remember that there is nothing so dangerous as an unpopular Government bereft of ideas. It has nothing to lose. A tongue-in-cheek suggestion from the Adam Smith Institute becomes an idea from the Lord Chancellor, then a White Paper and then law.

The idea of a lawyers' league table is that most dangerous of suggestions—superficially attractive and unworkable as proposed. It comes from the same intellectual stable as the poll tax. It is unworkable because there are no clearly defined performance parameters for legal work. Schools have examination results. Hospitals have death rates. Lawyers have only success. The Lord Chancellor has talked about publishing acquittal rates in criminal cases. This is a nonsense. A typical fraud case may involve numerous indictments and a conviction on only one of them. How does one assess not guilty verdicts on 15 charges and a conviction on the remaining one? The defence would claim a victory, but the Serious Fraud Office measures its success by the number of cases in which it gets a conviction. In the case of Roger Levitt, who was accused of colossal fraud after the collapse of the Levitt Group, he was convicted of one offence, but escaped with community service. Both prosecution and defence could validly claim success, according to their own criteria.

The result will be that the ten teams in the Saatchi & Saatchi Crown Court Premier League will all have results of: played 18, won 18.

Victimless crime will be replaced by cases that are never lost. What is the assessment system to be for plea-bargaining? If the prosecution accepts a plea to manslaughter and drops the murder charge, does that count as a victory for the defence?

Assessing success rates in civil cases is even more difficult. Most matrimonial cases end up settled as a negotiated score draw. When the court adjudicates, neither party usually gets exactly what he or she wanted. Everyone claims the result as a victory. Other civil cases present difficulties. Firms with large debt-collecting practices have very high success rates in obtaining judgments and will reclassify the debt collecting as "commercial litigation". As much legal work is difficult to categorise, lawyers would manipulate descriptions to their own advantage. In short, they would cheat.

At least sport has independent referees. Lord Mackay has not yet announced whether the judges will have to announce scores for the prosecution and defence. They will no doubt argue that they have enough to do checking that the solicitors present are not wearing wigs without having to hold up score cards at the end of each barrister's speech. How is the blame to be attributed for a lost case? Was it the barrister's incompetence, the solicitor's lack of preparation, or the fact that the client was lying?

No system of self-assessment will work. All lawyers convince themselves that they got a good result for their clients. Some of them are even good at convincing their clients that the result could have been even worse.

There is a simple way in which the Lord Chancellor can publish an objective league table of solicitors' competence. All solicitors have to be insured against professional negligence with the Solicitors Indemnity Fund Ltd. Detailed records are kept of all claims and categorised according to size of firm. No records relating to individual firms are published, but it is known that there are 214 problem firms with very poor claims records. It is certain that at least some of these firms have extensive legal aid practices.

Lord Mackay should require all firms carrying out legal aid work to disclose their claims record on a standard basis. Returns could be checked against the insurer's records. Accurate and realistic league tables could then be produced. Clients would have the clearest possible indication of the firm's quality of work.

The Lord Chancellor will have to improve his game if he wants to avoid relegation himself at the end of the season.

● The author is a practising solicitor.



PATRICK STEVENS

court? A: Any proceedings in which the sum claimed or amount involved does not exceed £1,000 (leaving out of account the sum claimed or amount involved in the counter-claim) shall stand referred for arbitration by the district judge upon receipt by the court of a defence to the claim.

Nobody can predict how the case will be handled. Judges may abandon strict rules of evidence and procedure but they may not. The experience of litigants is that some judges are wonderful but some are patronising and impossible to understand. As for the court staff, some are helpful, others rude. No rule changes will make courts more accessible to those who meet hostile staff. There is a charter, and posters tell how to complain, but I have not seen them when visiting court. Why are they not



Lord Woolf: higher limit?

sent out with initial material and be placed on the counter? If the court is to handle more claims, it will mean more judges' time on unrepresented disputes. To help them to cope, perhaps they should be helped by a case investigator. Precedents are provided by ACAS or the Scottish Children Hearings reporter. Such a person

can talk to the parties, investigate facts and commission expert reports and witness interviews before the hearing.

But in the end, such changes are not enough. Judgment without accessible enforcement procedures is a false hope. There could be evening hearings; judges could travel out rather than parties come in. Even those who cross the hurdles of understanding the rules, and getting the case heard, are not typical of the articulate confident litigating classes. Small claims court litigants need all the help they can get.

HUGH BRAYNE

● The author, a solicitor, is director of professional legal education in the school of law, Northumbria University, Newcastle. A fuller version of this article appears in *The Litigator*.

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Uneasy rider

SIR RICHARD SCOTT is steering clear of press interviews at present. So Guy Opperman, a barrister, secured something of a scoop recently with an interview with the judge for the Bar's Counsel magazine.

How did he manage this feat? He discovered that Sir Richard's hobby is, as he puts it, horses; the judge rides every year at the Pegasus Club point-to-point at Kingston Blount in Oxfordshire.

Nr Opperman also rode in the race. He says: "I intimidated to rather alarmed press secretary that, should I not be granted an official interview, attempts would have to be made to obtain the learned judge and jockey's opinions midrace."

Mainly, the thought of having a microphone strapped to his face was too much and within hours... it was agreed that I could see him.

Racy set

The chambers of Michael Brett, QC, at 9 Gough Square belies it has made legal-sporting history by becoming the first set to sponsor a racehorse. The horse—appropriately if unoriginally named My Learned Friend—is owned jointly by Jeremy Roberts, QC, a member of the set, and his wife.



Sir Richard: to the point

The sponsorship agreement has been approved by the Horse Racing Board and the horse is now fully equipped with jockey's colours and a paddock sheet bearing chambers logo. He ran five times last year and this year came third at Kempton's Broking Handicap.

Who's best?

BRITISH firms trying to set up legal practices in New York should be warned: there is a traitor in their midst.

An unnamed "senior English investment banker" based in New York recently told the *National Law Journal*: "While US law firms are more expensive, they are generally more thorough. In my experience a lot of US lawyers have better business training. If I had a choice, and the client was indifferent to cost, I

OUTS

would always choose a Davis Polk & Wardwell or Sullivan & Cromwell over Linklaters & Paines or Slaughter & May."

Court hope

A PROPOSAL to create a permanent International Criminal Court was adopted by the International Bar Association at its conference in Edinburgh yesterday.

Professor Ross Harper, the association's president, recommends that the idea be implemented before the end of 1995 to ensure that "perpetrators of crimes against humanity be speedily and effectively brought to justice."

Such a court would be the logical extension to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, which has jurisdiction over states but not individuals.

Bandwagon

THE O.J. Simpson trial bandwagon rolls on. A real band, Vince & The Attorneys, has released a compact disc, *Hung Jury*, which sets out to lampoon the American legal

system and the Simpson trial in particular.

Vince Mega, a bankruptcy and consumer affairs lawyer in Waukesha, Wisconsin, co-wrote the lead song *Truth Is Irrelevant* with his 12-year-old son. It leads with the catchy line claiming that O.J. Simpson's defence "lies in the alibi".

● I ASSUME he was joking... Ivan Lawrence, QC, chairman of the Home Affairs Committee of MPs, taking evidence from the Law Society on judicial appointments, questioned the desirability of too many solicitor judges because a lot of solicitors were, he said, defrauding the legal aid fund.

On song

AS IF to prove that City law firms and the Law Society can live in harmony, lawyers from Freshfields, Lovell White Durrant, Macfarlanes, Taylor Joynson Garrett, Wilde Saple and the Law Society can soon be seen making music together as EC4 Music later this month.

The group, which also includes bankers from Goldman Sachs and accountants from Touche Ross and Bieder Hamlyn, is performing a concert of chamber music at St Bride's church on June 21 at 7pm in aid of the British Heart Foundation and St Bride's restoration fund.

● Tickets—£5—from Tim Olsen at Lovell White Durrant (0171-236 0066).

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Judicial Appointments
Lord Chancellor's Department
Room 6.34, Southside
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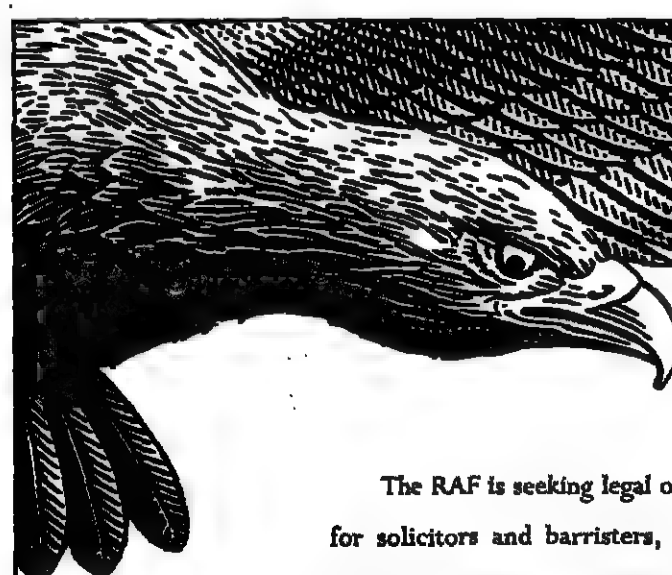
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A random choice of jury?

Hedley Goldberg explains the methods used to select jurors for long trials

It has been said that the most interesting thing that can happen to a juror during a trial is being allowed to sit in a different chair. When this is combined with a trial likely to last more than six months it is not surprising that 700 out of the 800 individuals summoned to sit on the jury in the Maxwell trial were unavailable to do so.

The trial of Ian and Kevin Maxwell began last week at an annex of the Old Bailey, Chichester, Kent. As with the Guinness trial, it means a long and heavy commitment for the 12 individuals selected from the public.

Potential jurors are selected at random from the electoral roll which covers the area served by a particular Crown Court. They are summoned by way of a jury summons, which generally requires attendance at court for ten days. A juror may be dismissed before the ten days are up. However, as the Maxwell jurors will find out, a juror may find himself or herself still sitting in court some six months later.

Jury service is a possibility for anyone between the ages of 18 and 70 who has lived in the country for a minimum of five years. Broadly, people who have been convicted of an offence, the clergy, members of the

judiciary and legal profession and those suffering from a mental disorder do not qualify. Then there are those who may be excused if they so wish. This includes Members of Parliament, the medical profession and members of the Armed Forces.

If people who are summoned do not fall into one of the above categories, it is still possible for them to avoid jury service. They may defer their service either because of a pre-planned holiday or other commitment. They can also seek to be excused on that particular occasion. In order to defer or to be excused, the individual summoned must convince the jury summoning officer that the circumstances are such that it is necessary.

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Department explained that a genuine reason is needed and, generally, individuals will not be excused on account of their job or even the fact that they are self-employed. Therefore, any jury may consist of teachers, builders, company chairmen, stockbrokers and the unemployed. However, when it

comes to complex trials lasting six months or more the courts appear to be a little more accommodating.

The spokesman explained that for the Maxwell trial two groups of 400 were summoned to the Old Bailey on two separate days. Of these, 650 were immediately excused for reasons of availability, which may have included holidays or work commitments.

The remaining 150 were invited to complete a questionnaire which again tested their availability and determined whether there was any possibility of undue prejudice. The spokesman gave the hypothetical example that had a Maxwell pensioner been summoned he or she would have been dismissed at this point. However, she confirmed that a general knowledge of the case or of the circumstances surrounding the case would not be cause enough of its own to dismiss a juror.

Another 50 of the original 800 summoned were dismissed, again on the whole for reasons of availability. Of

the 100 remaining who were eligible two sets of 12 jurors were picked by the judge at random. The contrast with the selection of jurors for the O.J. Simpson trial, in California, in which the jury were virtually cherry-picked by the opposing lawyers, is marked.

If one accepts the rationale for a jury trial in serious criminal trials, regardless of their complexity, then it must be fair that the jury should be randomly selected. A cross-section of society can be expected to have a mixture of qualities, experience and preconceptions, which, when aggregated, form a well balanced jury.

The identity of the seven women and five men who comprise the jury now sitting, is, and will remain, confidential. However, as it stands, the jury would appear to be weighted on the side of those who, for one reason or another, are available.

The question may be raised as to whether a jury selection made almost solely on the basis of availability is suitable for such lengthy, complex and hugely expensive trials. But there is no evidence to suggest they are unfitted to the task; and calls to remove juries from long fraud trials have successfully been resisted.

● The author is a solicitor

Publishers push electronic format

The bulging briefcase of the lawyer is on the way out, says Josephine Carr

to technological expertise and, says Mr Stubbs, "our job now is to bring the technology and intellectual property together. No one in legal publishing has got a product to the market and really convinced people

most effective in enabling people to do their jobs while dramatically reducing their costs.

Butterworth's Books on Screen is the best known product available at the moment. "But", says Mr Stubbs, "that is not really advanced technology as I understand it. It might be what the market wants now. But what it wants in the next step is what we are trying to find out."

The company's first test may be in the area of tax publishing. Butterworths has taken its market leader, *Simon's Taxes*, put its 11 volumes of paper on to one CD-Rom, and re-launched as *Simon's Direct Tax Services*. FTL&T also has ambitions in that area, confirming the rumour that it is purchasing *HyperTax* and *HyperVAT*.

The two products are a joint venture between CLS UK and the Stationery Office and were not part of the original purchase of CLS. The products take the form of a database and utilise HyperText software, which allows the user to look behind the main text by clicking on key words and accessing relevant cases, articles or commentaries.

Such a fast-moving market is even more of a problem for individual law firms. Should they be sweeping off their bookshelves and buying CD racks? Or are they in danger of investing in the legal publishing equivalent of the Betamax video recorder?

At the moment, Windows-based CD-Rom appears to be winning the race to be the standard, but is it the future? The firms are unsure. But, while they are still a long way behind the accountancy firms, lawyers are beginning to realise electronic publishing's potential to cut costs, particularly in research time.

Christine Durman, an executive director of Butterworths, says: "Since publishing *Simon's* in electronic format we have been amazed at how it has prodded the City law firms to come to us. We expected to push the market but the market is pulling us."



Chris Stubbs: strategy

"We are trying to find out what the market will want next"

that it is the thing that will make the difference to them."

Other publishers might dispute this claim. Electronic publishing is already highly competitive as publishers search for the Holy Grail — the product which will be the

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Australia look forward to fresh start

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

FOUR years ago, the Australia players shook hands with the Queen and returned to a ticker-tape welcome in Sydney, the World Cup clutched firmly in their hands. Tomorrow, some of them will leave Johannesburg quietly, others will stay in South Africa, but for the men in green and gold, the global party is over.

In another sense, however, it is only just beginning. Throughout the tournament here, negotiations have proceeded between the three southern-hemisphere powers and potential sponsors of a restructured international programme. By next week, the shape of things to come may



well have been determined, regardless of Australia's demise, and new, lucrative vistas will appear.

That is one influence this Australia squad will bear in mind; another is the Super League in the professional code and the others likely to arrive to play rugby league; a third is the reaction of the Australia selectors after what has been a disappointing campaign, ending with defeat by England in the quarter-finals.

Their only remaining international this summer are against New Zealand, on July 22 in Auckland, and, a week later, in Sydney. Were the All Blacks to be the new holders of the Webb Ellis Trophy, the games would not lack edge. But how many of the departing players will retain the



Dwyer, the Australia coach, tries to inspire his side at half-time during the quarter-final defeat by England. Photograph: Ian Waldie

affection of the selectors, even if they have not departed for pastures new?

The front row, both at the set-piece and in the loose, has lacked spark and Tim Gavin is said not to be the force that he was at No 8, though he played well against South Africa when others did not. But the main criticism in Australia has been directed at George Gregan, the 22-year-old scrum half.

To heap coals on Gregan's head would be unfair and potentially destructive. He is still learning the ways of international rugby and Bob Dwyer, the coach who has his own critics, will surely let him

down as lightly as he can. But Gregan is not, and may never be, as influential as Nick Farr-Jones, whose absence was the primary difference between this side and the one of four years ago.

What of Michael Lynagh and David Campese, holders of 72 and 91 international caps respectively? Campese has often said he wants to become the second player (after Philippe Sella) to appear in 100 internationals and a player of his quality deserves a better epitaph than this World Cup.

Lynagh, the captain, will turn over his future during the next fortnight. You could not find a more gracious loser,

and his is the air of a man with little more to achieve in rugby. Lynagh acknowledged yesterday what defeat by South Africa in the opening match meant. "The preparation had gone on for so long that, when we did lose, it knocked a lot out of us," he said. "In 1991 we didn't play well for parts of the tournament but we didn't meet genuine quality until the later rounds."

"Here we met South Africa on the first day and England in the quarters. Building into 1991 we had focused on achieving a high standard of play and we were marginally ahead of the rest. Here we knew we had to go up a step

and maybe we tried too hard." Lynagh absolutely refused to concede that the 1995 Australians were in the same position as the 1991 New Zealanders, apparently distracted by commercial possibilities and with some players uncertain of form and fitness. "We took a look at what happened with New Zealand then and tried to guard against it," he said.

"The big threat now may be that, having lost here, players may be disillusioned with the game. Some players will definitely receive offers from rugby league but I hope things will work out to counter that. The Australian Rugby Union has a good feel for what the

players require and is optimistic." The inference is that enhanced player contracts will keep players in union.

League offers will almost certainly be renewed for the three centres, Jason Little, Tim Horan and Daniel Herbert. The wing, Joe Roff, made a good impression, as did Matthew Burke, at full back, though they should note the example of Garrick Morgan, the former Queensland lock. Morgan would have played in this World Cup but he signed for the new rugby league club, South Queensland Crushers, last September. Now he finds himself unable even to make first grade.

Paterson ushers Scotland into brave new world

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN PRETORIA

SCOTLAND leave South Africa this evening after a World Cup campaign that had begun with genuine hope of repeating their feat of a place in the 1991 semi-finals; hope that, to all intents and purposes, evaporated into the night sky above Loftus Versfeld here in the 88th minute of their final pool game against France.

That crushing setback knocked the stuffing out of the Scots, who knew that New Zealand lay in wait. Scotland can draw consolation for the future but, as their retiring manager, Duncan Paterson, said yesterday, a country the size of Scotland cannot afford to stand still.

While, in the past, accusations of parochialism may have been justified, there is a new realism at the top of Scottish rugby, personified by the pragmatic Paterson, the coach, Dougie Morgan, and the departing captain, Gavin Hastings. Their awareness of what needs to be done to remain among the leading six nations in the world has been, and will continue to be, vital in nudging the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) forward.

In fairness, the SRU is taking steps in that direction. A restructured, competitive league and a new knock-out cup competition start next season, a working party has been set up to persuade employers to discriminate where possible in favour of Scotland players, and money in the shape of record sponsorship is pouring into the Murrayfield coffers.

With only two wins against mediocre opposition, Ivory Coast and Tonga, and two defeats, their World Cup campaign, taken in isolation, cannot be considered a success. But the season as a whole can, at least from January onwards.

Only three players have definitely announced their retirement — Hastings, Iain Morrison and Kenny Milne — and the nucleus of a side which can look forward to 1999 with optimism is in place. What is needed is for players such as Logan, Peters, Campbell, Joiner, Shiell and Townsend, now aged between 20 and 25, to be exposed to a consistently high level of competition.

Paterson emphasised that the system has to be changed to allow this, be it in terms of a European league or more meaningful inter-provincial or district rugby. How this might be fitted into an already congested fixture list remains to

be seen, but with the league season running only until December opportunities will arise after Christmas. In his time as manager he has repeatedly submitted reports to the Union advocating radical change. The message after the World Cup will be more urgent.

"We have got to look at getting our top players better quality rugby on a regular basis. Against New Zealand we were expecting our players to rise to a standard they don't experience week in, week out. All Black provincial rugby is so strong that everything they do is instinctive."

"Scotland do remarkably well with the limited resources at our disposal. But we have to keep looking forward and not use that as an excuse."

To that end, Paterson wants to see his successor appointed on a full-time salaried basis with a four-year contract, and greater remuneration for who-



Paterson: call for change

ever succeeds Morgan as coach. He would also like to see clubs consistently put the needs of the national team first and a structure put in place which will identify and nurture talent at an early age.

Paterson has an ally in Hastings, who accepts that by 1999 the game will be professional at the top level, and that sooner rather than later greater rewards will be available to players, if not for playing then at least from the market place.

"My definition of professionalism is someone who doesn't hold out a full-time job. At the moment just about everyone in the Scottish squad has a job. I wonder how many of the South Africans/New Zealanders or Australians can say the same."

"We have to follow what we have seen out here and what we know is going on in the world. There is no point in sitting still. You have to move with the times."

Ireland's campaign unfettered by great expectations

Ireland, from their own point of view and others, did not carry high hopes for prolonged progress in the Rugby World Cup. They had not performed well in the five nations' championship and had given no indication, especially after their defeat by Italy before departing for South Africa, that much more could be expected of them. That they managed to reach the quarter-finals will have left them more or less satisfied.

Unlike Wales, who made no bones about their expectation of moving onwards and upwards, and failed, there was a greater sense of realism. Unlike Wales, there was no embarrassment. Simply recognition to their fate and an acknowledgement of their true standing. Those who have reached the last four are the ones, with Australia, having fallen to one of these, who had been predicted to do so. So there was no steep fall for Ireland. They had given their best shot.

There were no sophisticated tactics. There is a game played with a passion that infuses all their furious charges. Not that there is anything wrong with that. Welsh observers would dearly love to see half as much vigour in their own team. Ireland understood their own limitations and formed tactics to accommodate them.

Gerald Davies admires the passion of a rugby nation that knows its strengths and limitations

They had, in consequence, a strong sense of direction. They relied on parity, not dominance, at forward, and on Eric Elwood, at stand-off half, kicking for position. Against most teams, such tactics proved good enough, but not against those who aspire to the higher category.

Ireland were well served in the lineup by Gabriel Fulcher and Neil Francis. Francis was prominent in the loose, too, where Paddy Johns and David Corkery were frequently to the fore. But the impetus they gave

to the Irish cause was not sustained.

So, although they established a two-goal lead against Wales, they prevailed by only one point. Similarly, they were holding the French to 12-12 at half-time but failed to score again. When France raised the pace of their game, Ireland failed to follow suit.

They were probably the least-fit squad in a tournament which, since the last one, has seen vast changes in the levels of individual strength and fitness. If Ireland are to keep

the essence of their rugby, with its traditional fervour and zest, they must seek a way of increasing these levels within their own club structure.

They are handicapped too by not having sufficient players of international class to call upon. Brendan Mullin had few chances and Simon Geoghegan, through no fault of his own, had a quiet time. Yet, in the semi-final, Jonathan Bell, 21, stood out as a

player who should serve Ireland well.

Ireland respond best when the challenge is at its height. They did so against New Zealand and were rewarded with three tries; a little less so against Japan, where two penalty tries kept them in the match. They never seem overburdened by the challenge and whatever comes their way is a bonus. That was their mood at the end.

We can't control

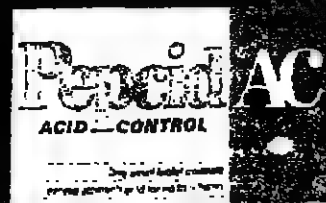
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we can control

your excess acid.

Just one small Pepcid AC tablet controls

excess acid for up to 9 hours. All the best.



WE CONTROL YOUR ACID. YOU GET ON WITH LIFE.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. CONTAINS FAMOTIDINE.

Champion on course for tough challenge

EMMA DUGGLEBY gave women's amateur golf a jolt last year when she emerged from the ranks to win the British title (Mel Webb writes). She begins the defence of her crown at Royal Portrush today. Duggleby, 23, had achieved little until she won the title, but she has been a rapid developer since then. She was in the England team that won the home internationals and played her part in two wins over South Africa in May. Her main rivals are likely to be Julie Hall, of Felinstowe Ferry, who won the title in 1990, and Janice Moodie, of Mhairi Mackay and Lisa Walton, who were members of the Curtis Cup team that tied with the United States last year.

Smith completes move

RUGBY LEAGUE: Bradford Northern, who yesterday changed their name to Bradford Bulls, have confirmed the appointment of Brian Smith, 41, as their coach to replace Peter Fox (Christopher Irvine writes). Smith, an Australian, took Hull to success between 1988 and 1991.

Although he has two years of a new contract left, Warrington yesterday said that Jonathan Davies may have played his last game for them. Davies, who is playing for North Queensland Cowboys, has hinted that he might stay in Australia.

Ballesteros back in pain

GOLF: On the eve of the US Open, Severiano Ballesteros revealed that the back problems which troubled him two years ago have returned. "The back is back," Ballesteros said. However the problem did not prevent him from practising at Shinnecock Hills, in New York, yesterday. "It went again before the start of last week's tournament," the Spaniard said, having enjoyed two successful, trouble-free seasons.

Samaranch defies age

OLYMPIC GAMES: Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, is expected to push through a rule change in Budapest this week that should allow him to stay in power. Samaranch, who reaches the age limit of 75 next month, has asked members to consider abolishing the limit, raising it to 78 or making an exception for the president.

Gerasch's ban stands

SWIMMING: Sylvia Gerasch, Germany's former world champion, will not be able to defend her European 100 metres breaststroke title after failing to persuade FINA, the world governing body, to reduce a two-year ban imposed because excessive levels of caffeine were found in Gerasch's body after a test at the 1993 European sprint championships in Gateshead.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

As West you pick up:
♠ A 5 4 2 ♠ 10 9 8 3 2 ♠ 4 ♠ K 6 3

and have to lead after this auction:

	W	N	E	S
♠	1♠	3♠	Pass	2♠
♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT

Many players would lead a heart, on the basis that it is the unbid suit, and they have a safe holding. This is wrong because North is marked with at most a singleton heart — he has bid two suits and then shown strong diamond support.

How about a trump? Not possible playing with Mathe, and too passive in any case. Perhaps your partner has a singleton spade? If that were so, it would mean that the spades would be distributed five with North and three with South. If South had three he would have been likely to bid Three Spades over North's Three Clubs.

So that leaves clubs. Giving a trick in the suit is unlikely to be critical, as the spade suit will provide South with all the tricks he needs. And if your partner has the queen you may be able to establish the setting trick. So lead a club; that is what Ron von der Porten did, and it was the only lead to beat the contract. The full deal is:

	♠	♥	♦	♣
W	A K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	A K 5 4	A J 8 4	Q 7 6 5 4 3 2
N	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	A K 5 4	A J 8 4	Q 7 6 5 4 3 2
E	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	A K 5 4	A J 8 4	Q 7 6 5 4 3 2
S	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	A K 5 4	A J 8 4	Q 7 6 5 4 3 2

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: Three of clubs

□ The Times will be publishing daily the results from The Generali European Team Championships, to be played in Vilamoura, Portugal, from June 17 to July 1.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

PREFRACT
a. A monitor at Harrow
b. A parapet
c. Stubborn

ROTURE
a. Plebeian
b. A rotary scythe
c. Rotation of crops

QUERQUEDULE
a. A whingeing spirit
b. A temple slave
c. A duck

REIS
a. A captain
b. Fish pilau
c. Levantine dice game

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chess in Parliament
RIVALS are springing up to challenge the reputation of Jeremy Hanley MP, Tory Party chairman, as the strongest player in Parliament.

Dafydd Wigley, leader of Plaid Cymru has sent me this recent accomplished win against a computer in which a bishop sacrifice on move ten leads to a forced win within a further eight moves.

The winner writes that chess is a good way of occupying himself during the anti-social hours which Parliamentarians often have to lead in the course of their work.

White: Dafydd Wigley MP
Black: Kasparov Computer (level 8)

Westminster, June 1995

1. ♠e4 c5
2. d4 d5

Diagram of final position



In achieving this distinction Harriet Hunt gained more votes from the chess experts, journalists, players and organisers who composed the jury, than did such prominent grandmasters as William Watson, Jon Speelman and Nigel Short, who followed her in the rankings.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Buckley - Quillan, Four Nations Chess League 1995. Although Black is ahead on material, he has only managed to develop his king and queen while the entire white army is poised for attack. How did White crash through?

Solution on page 46

son ushers
land into
new world

Injury clouds future for Pennekamp

By GEORGE RAE

PENNEKAMP's racing career is on hold after X-rays taken at Chantilly yesterday revealed a hairline fracture of a joint. The 2,000 Guineas winner, in attempting to give Sheikh Mohammed a first Derby success, is believed to have injured himself crossing the road on the descent to Tattenham Corner. He finished lame in eleventh place behind Lamartarra, beaten more than 20 lengths.

Anthony Stroud, Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager, said: "Veterinary examination and X-rays reveal a hairline fracture to Pennekamp's fore fetlock joint. He will be kept in his box for a few weeks before further X-rays are taken to assess his progress."

However, Stroud stressed that, granted normal progress, Pennekamp would be able to race again. Connections had initially suggested a return to a mile was on the cards — the Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville in August being suggested as a likely option — but it will be some time before a resumption on the track can be considered.

By a twist of timing, as news of the injury was announced Pennekamp's name appeared among the 148 entries for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamps on October 1. Even in his absence, his trainer, André Fabre, would not have to look far for other representatives. He put forward 24 entries, including last year's winner Carnegie and the Coronation Cup victor, Sunshack.

Nor are Saeed bin Suroor

and the Godolphin team leaving anything to chance. Moonshell and Lamartarra lead a formidable eight-strong entry which also boasts Balanchine, successful in last year's Oaks and Irish Derby, the St Leger winner Moonax and Vetori, triumphant in the French 2,000 Guineas.

With the Godolphin entries classed as Dubai based, Celtic Swing, the French Derby winner, heads the 47 English acceptors. However, Michael Stoute, who can call upon eight possibilities, has assembled the strongest challenge numerically.

An intriguing entry is last year's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Stakes winner, King's Theatre. He has since moved to the United States to be trained by Bill Mott, but has been entered under the auspices of his former handler, Henry Cecil.

The next forfeit stage for the £838,000 contest is not until September 26, and supplementary entries can be made on September 28.

More immediately, Perryson View attempts to complete a four-timer in the £50,000-added 25th Year of the William Hill Trophy Handicap at York on Saturday. The Peter Calver-trained three-year-old gained his biggest success when beating Bold Effort in the £23,000 Coral Sprint at Newmarket earlier this month.

Now penalised 7lb, he is on offer at 8-1 with the sponsors, who quote Coastal Bluff and Stylish Ways as 6-1 joint-favourites.



King's Theatre, formerly with Henry Cecil and now based in the United States, is among the entries for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

Only Royale heads list of hopefuls for Brazil

THE world's third richest race, the Grande Premio Brasil, which has been opened up to foreign competition for the first time this year, has attracted 38 European entries, including Coronation Cup runner-up Only Royale.

Run at Gavea racecourse, Rio de Janeiro, on August 3, the 1½-mile turf contest has prize-money of £160,000, with £705,000 to the winner. It is superseded by the Japan Cup and Breeders' Cup Classic in terms of money.

But only three European horses will be invited after an official ranking order is published on July 8.

Other entries from England include Paul Cole's Time Star, John Gosden's Multistar and the David Loder-trained pair Overbury and Prince Of Androit.

Four Irish entries — all from Dermot Weld's globe-trotting stable — include 1993 Melbourne Cup winner Vintage Crop and Humber, eighth in Saturday's Derby.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AGWA (3.30 Salisbury)
Next best: General Assembly (3.00 Salisbury)

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

ROYAL HUNT CUP
Ascot, June 21

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

Horse	10-1	12-1	14-1	16-1
Madly Sharp	10-1	12-1	14-1	16-1
Governor George	12-1	14-1	16-1	18-1
Zephyr	14-1	16-1	18-1	20-1
Desert Time	16-1	18-1	20-1	22-1
Knightsbridge	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1
Royal Hill	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1
Rally Bushmiller	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1
Sharp Review	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1
Realities	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1
Hem N' Eggs	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1

A quiet week fills the void between Epsom and Royal Ascot, which allows time to contemplate some of next week's handicaps at the Berkshire track. Of these, the Royal Hunt Cup, run over a straight mile, appears the most punter-friendly at the moment with doubts over two of the market leaders.

Governor George won first time out at Newmarket in April, but tends to pull hard in the early stages of his races and has yet to win over a mile.

The progressive Madly Sharp has been backed in recent weeks after an impressive success over seven furlongs at Newmarket last month. However, he has been raised 7lb for that success and the son of Sharpo is not certain to be as effective over a mile. Indeed, Madly Sharp may not confirm Newmarket form with Realities, who stayed on into second there and is now 6lb better off. The latter put up two of his best efforts last season over Ascot's straight mile, yet can be backed at 25-1.

However, the best bet is Richard Hannott's HAM N' EGGS. After some promising efforts in the first half of last season, he became disappointing and as a result was gelded over the winter. As is often the case, his attitude seems to have improved, and he put up a promising first effort of the season when beaten a head by Play Heritage at Goodwood. Well treated on the best of last year's form, he represents outstanding value at 25-1 with Corals, Hills and the Tote.

THUNDERER

2.30 Queen's Inaugural 4.00 EUROLINE MISCHIEF (nap)
3.30 General Assembly 4.00 Aardwolf
3.30 Agave 5.00 Anjay

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 General Assembly, 4.00 Euroline Mischief.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.30 EDDIE HEAVY MAIDEN AUCTION FILLS STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,227: 1m 6f) (11 runners)

No.	Horse	Trainer	Owner	Weight	Age	Form
101	101	101	101	101	101	101
102	102	102	102	102	102	102
103	103	103	103	103	103	103
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105	105	105	105	105	105	105
106	106	106	106	106	106	106
107	107	107	107	107	107	107
108	108	108	108	108	108	108
109	109	109	109	109	109	109
110	110	110	110	110	110	110
111	111	111	111	111	111	111

BETTING: 7-2 Queen's Inaugural, 4-1 Thunderer, 5-1 General Assembly, 10-1 Euroline Mischief, 10-1 Aardwolf, 10-1 Anjay.

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GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

Recent numbers, they are listed: 10-1 Thunderer, 10-1 General Assembly, 10-1 Euroline Mischief, 10-1 Aardwolf, 10-1 Anjay.

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REDCAR

2.45 Catwalk Girl, 3.15 Avishayev, 3.45 Brodesse, 4.15 Flashes's Son, 4.45 Toishia Talk, 5.15 Stately.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.15 ELLE SHAPED.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.15 Stately.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)
DRAW: 6F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.45 HARTLEPOOL SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,287: 7f) (14 runners)

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113	113	113	113	113	113	113
114	114	114	114	114	114	114

BETTING: 7-2 Catwalk Girl, 4-1 Avishayev, 5-1 Brodesse, 10-1 Flashes's Son, 10-1 Toishia Talk, 10-1 Stately.

10-1 Catwalk Girl, 10-1 Avishayev, 10-1 Brodesse, 10-1 Flashes's Son, 10-1 Toishia Talk, 10-1 Stately.

10-1 Catwalk Girl, 10-1 Avishayev, 10-1 Brodesse, 10-1 Flashes's Son, 10-1 Toishia Talk, 10-1 Stately.

Insular approach exposed by Brazil

Gloucester
up by defia

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England wind down before supreme test

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE England rugby union players were in relaxed mood yesterday, in harmony not only with themselves after dismissing Australia from the World Cup but also with their administrators. It is just five weeks since Dennis Easby, president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), and Will Carling, England's captain, were at odds; yesterday, at the president's behest, England went to Sun City to rest from the weekend's rigours.

Sun City, for those unfamiliar with Bophuthatswana, is a town devoted to pleasure, be it golf, swimming or gambling.

It was Easby's suggestion that the team should, at the RFU's expense, take a break there if successful in the quarter-finals. They return here tomorrow to size up the task of beating New Zealand in Cape Town on Sunday.

A sizeable task indeed. Carling scoffed at the suggestion made by Laurie Mains, the New Zealand coach, that England would go into the semi-finals as favourites. "We were underdogs against Australia and we will be even more so this coming Sunday," Carling said.

The betting confirms his view. The All Blacks stand at even money to win the tournament with England only third best at 4-1 behind South

Africa. Nor have England's last-gasp heroics impressed South Africans, judging by yesterday's reports. Of far greater concern was the wellbeing of four injured South African players.

England "did the basics well", *Business Day* conceded, though, for the *Johannesburg Star*, they were no more than "boring but effective". If that is how dismissal of the 1991 champions from the tournament is greeted, England will not mind; they would rather the pressure was turned on the exciting but, in some areas, raw New Zealanders.

Carling observed that this tournament could be won by the team with the most players



still standing by June 24. His team has been fortunate with injuries (Andy Gomarsall, the young Wasps scrum half who joined the party when Kyrán Bracken was in doubt with tendinitis, left for London last night; the New Zealanders have doubts over several back-row forwards while Andre

Joubert, South Africa's full back, is unlikely to play again in this tournament.

Joubert had broken bones in his left hand pinned on Sunday night after the damaging quarter-final against Western Samoa. That game has led to the sixth suspension of the tournament as, yesterday, Mike Umaga, the Samoa full back, was banned for 90 days for a dangerous tackle on Joubert. A previous offence of head-butting was taken into account.

Carling is also aiming to improve his team's discipline. Not that England stand in danger of disciplinary hearings, but they conceded too many penalties—14 against 11—to Australia. Nor did they

always use possession effectively. "We will have to get the running game going," Carling said. "But, when sides are so evenly balanced, running the ball in your own half is a huge risk."

Even so, England believe they have identified areas of New Zealand's side which they can attack and relish the fresh challenge. It is an English idiosyncrasy that, faced with the same opponents, they cannot always produce an effective game second time around.

"If it was Australia's again next week, it would be difficult," Carling said. "But England sides I have been involved with rise to a challenge and, whatever happens

on Sunday, I'm proud to have been involved against Australia. It was one of the greatest games I have played in."

England derive encouragement from Scotland's brave effort in scoring 30 points against the All Blacks, including three tries—a feat the Irish also managed in their pool game. More so the point, within the last two years they have beaten each of the other three semi-finalists: France in the five nations' championship, New Zealand at Twickenham two years ago and South Africa in Pretoria last year.

Their semi-final will be refereed by Stephen Hildick, of Ireland, who handled their pool game against Italy.

Derek Bevan, of Wales, whose calm control of the opening game between South Africa and Australia must make him a front-runner for his second World Cup final, has charge of South Africa's game with France in Durban on Saturday.

Max Bristo, the Ivory Coast wing, paralysed by injuries sustained in the pool game with Tonga, has left for Bordeaux. Apart from the insurance taken out by both the World Cup organisers and the South African Rugby Football Union to cover such contingencies, a fund has been opened here to assist Bristo.

Australian legends, page 42
Scotts look forward, page 42

Dispute over balls at Queen's Club

Reduced pressure encourages Bates to bounce back

By STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

ACCORDING to Jeremy Bates, his match on the opening day of the Stella Artois tennis tournament at Queen's Club yesterday contained "absolute rubbish". Markus Zöcke, his opponent, talked of "a ridiculous joke". Elsewhere, Chris Wilkinson admitted to "playing pathetically". Welcome to the grass-court season.

It started underneath grey clouds, amid a chilling breeze and in slow motion. New balls, designed to slow down the game, were introduced in conditions that exacerbated the effect. If players expressed misgivings, spectators should welcome the change.

It was initiated after the finals last year at Queen's and Wimbledon, the first between Todd Martin and Pete Sampras, which featured not one rally of more than six shots, and the second between Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic. Dull and predictable, they were little more than serving contests.



Zöcke: Innovation 'a disaster'

Sampras, the top seed at Queen's this year, admitted then that "our offensive weapons are too good for the game". Solutions were proposed, such as ordering the server to keep both feet on the ground, but the most practical idea lay in altering the flight of the balls.

By reducing the pressure within them (albeit "marginal-ly", according to the manufacturer, Slazenger), they are heavier. In weather like yesterday, matches appeared to be played at the same leisurely pace as the clay-court version at Roland Garros over the past fortnight.

Zöcke, a giant German who relies on a service that has been timed as the fifteenth fastest in the world, complained throughout to the umpire. "The combination of the new product and the conditions was a disaster for me," he said. "It was ridiculous, a joke."

Emasculated, he served a mere half-dozen aces as he went out 6-4, 6-3 in an hour and a quarter. "I normally hit five or six aces a set," he said. "I play one of two shots and that's it, but these balls don't seem to have any pressure. It feels as though there is no air inside."

Bates was no more complimentary about the innovation, even though he does not depend on the weight of his service. "The balls are dire," he said. "It felt as though they were flat but the conditions were horrible and the court, though there was not one bad bounce, was slow."

Wilkinson, a former Britain No 1, made no excuses for his defeat by Tommy Ho, an American ranked one place above Bates. "It was a bad result and I played pathetically," he conceded after being knocked out 6-4, 6-0. Two of his compatriots will form the centre-piece of the programme today.

In the notably stronger bottom half of the draw, Mark Petchey has been paired with the object of his recent displeasure. He voiced his objection to the acceptance of Greg Rusedski, born in Canada, as a British player. They will face each other on the centre court, and Petchey will be relieved to hear of the deadening effects of the new ball. Rusedski, with a service timed at 137mph, has the most fearsome weapon in the grass-court game.

Weapon discarded, page 1

Wood beaten, page 43



Bates on his way to victory in the Stella Artois tournament yesterday. He was far from happy with the standard of tennis

Technology rallies round

By JOHN GOODBODY

TECHNOLOGY can make tennis balls slower if tournament organisers want more sustained rallies to please spectators, who are bored with the serve-and-volley strategy of the modern game.

The All-England Club has already confirmed that there will be a difference this year in the balls for the Wimbledon championships, which begin in a fortnight's time. They are constructed at the Dunlop Slazenger factory in Barnsley, which makes a total of 24 million annually for use in Great Britain.

Terry Moore, manufacturing director at the plant, declined to give details of the specifications for Wimbledon

and Queen's Club, because his contract with the clubs insisted on confidentiality.

However, he said that all 34,000 balls for the annual championships and for all other leading tournaments were individually tested by members of his 300-strong workforce. All must fall within the parameters of the International Tennis Federation, the game's world governing body.

These are: first, that the weight of the ball must be between 56.7 grams and 58.5 grams; second, that the diameter must be between 6.35cm and 6.67cm; third, when dropping the ball from a height of 254cm on to a concrete base, the ball must rebound more

than 135cm and less than 147cm; and, finally, when squeezed by calibrated jaws on a set machine, the ball must be compressed by more than 0.56cm but less than 0.74cm.

To make the balls slower, Moore said a manufacturer has four options: to make the ball bigger; to make it lighter; to make it softer; or to make it more resilient.

Moore said that a manufacturer could alter the property of the rubber, which makes up the wall of the ball, to help achieve these results. However, he emphasised that whatever the manufacturer did, he had to observe the parameters of the world governing body.

Rugby figures top in peak viewing

By JOHN GOODBODY

ENGLAND'S momentous victory over Australia, the world champions, in the Rugby World Cup topped the television viewing figures during a weekend when the sports enthusiast was spoilt for choice.

The average viewing figures for both quarter-finals on Sunday were almost the same, 6.3 million for the England game and 6.2 million for Scotland's match against New Zealand. However, by the time that Rob Andrew had dropped his celebrated goal to clinch victory, the audience had peaked at 8 million.

A spokeswoman for ITV said that the ratings were the highest ITV had had in that slot on a Sunday for "a very long time".

Lunchtime on Sunday during the summer is traditionally not conducive to high figures. However, the poor

weather in southern England helped boost the average audience to levels that are comparable to the numbers, who regularly watch the Five Nations championship on Saturday afternoons during the winter. On Saturday, France's quarter-final against Ireland had an average of three million viewers and South Africa against Western Samoa had 2.8 million.

Highlights of the England v Brazil football international were screened after 11pm on Sunday and so only attracted

an average of 2.7 million people. Sky Sports covered the game live. I understand that in homes which receive Sky, as many people watched the football friendly on satellite as did the England v Australia rugby game on terrestrial television.

The BBC will be satisfied with its figures of the Canadian Grand Prix. This was broadcast during the early evening, which is a better time for audience figures than lunchtime, and it drew an average audience of 4.9 mil-

lion people, with a peak of 5.4 million.

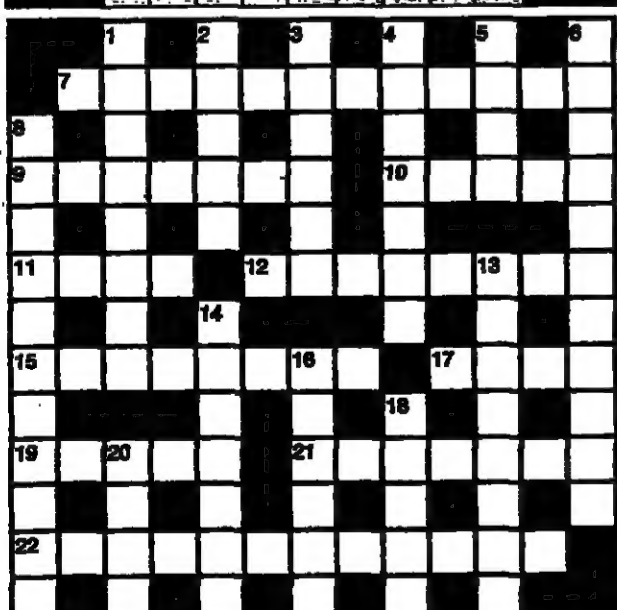
For the first time since 1953, the Derby was run on a Saturday and drew 4 million on Channel 4, which compares with the 1.72 million that saw the premier flat race of the season in 1994, when it was staged on a Wednesday.

However, this year's figures are only a quarter of the total, who watched the Grand National in April. It is believed that this is because the National is more of a "people's race" than the Derby. The steeplechase also attracts a greater volume of betting because it is more of a lottery.

The French Open tennis championships had some solid figures, although Wimbledon can attract over 10 million for the finals. Cricket rarely has high numbers because matches are drawn out over many hours. There are also few natural "peaks" in a Test match.

Sport	Event	Day	Channel	Average	Peak
Rugby	Eng v Aus	Sun	ITV	6.3m	8.0m
Rugby	Scot v NZ	Sun	ITV	6.2m	6.7m
Motor racing	Canadian GP	Sun	BBC2	4.8m	5.4m
Rugby	Derby	Sat	ITV	4.0m	4.0m
Rugby	France v Ire	Sat	ITV	3.0m	3.8m
Rugby	SA v W Samoa	Sat	ITV	2.8m	3.0m
Football	Eng v Brazil	Sun	BBC1	2.7m	2.9m
Tennis	Women's final	Sat	BBC1	2.4m	3.2m
Tennis	Men's final	Sun	BBC2	2.4m	3.1m
Tennis	Eng v Wt	Sun	BBC	1.3m	3.2m
Oriental	Eng v Wt	Sat	BBC	1.3m	2.1m

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 494

ACROSS

- Idealised elderly couple (5,3,4)
- Fabled Greek musician, visited Underworld (7)
- Make provision (for) (5)
- Roof-slate (4)
- Natural impulse (8)
- Get (child) down; finalise (paper contents) (3,2,3)
- Cask; object of humour (4)
- Become liable (for) (5)
- To which boy grows (7)
- Chronic (false) health worry (12)

DOWN

- Brief treatise (8)
- Religious house (5)
- Dried grape (6)
- Bring up (7)
- Antisocial youth (4)
- Thanklessness (11)
- Rigidly erect (4,7)
- Hypersensitive, obsessive (8)
- Put right (7)
- Lorna Doone setting; type of poem (6)
- Supercilious, derogatory (5)
- Material for article; reproduction (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 493

ACROSS: 1 Taking over 8 Arousal 9 Shako 10 Kite 11 Harmless 13 Ideal 14 Limit 16 Prospect 17 Snob 20 Cheer 21 Lethargic 22 Apostrophe

DOWN: 1 Thank 2 Know the ropes 3 Ness 4 On loan 5 Ensemble 6 Salesmanship 7 Cosset 12 Claptrap 13 Impact 15 Sculls 18 Budge 19 Parr

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£15,500	10.5%	126.67	£12.67	£12.67	£208.53	£208.53	£208.53
£10,000	11.5%	94.80	£9.48	£9.48	£159.99	£159.99	£159.99
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